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The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape’s location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director’s Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site’s overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape’s overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape’s overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or
treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

**Inventory Unit Description:**

As part of Thomas Edison National Historical Park, the Glenmont Estate is located within the historic residential community of Llewellyn Park, in the township of West Orange, New Jersey, approximately fifteen miles west of New York City. The 15.67-acre property (historic portion comprises 13.54 acres) reflects the history of the Thomas Edison family, as well as early community planning. The Glenmont grounds include the Edison home set within an open lawn dotted with a variety of native and exotic trees and shrubs, curving drives and walks, gardens, and a variety of service related buildings and structures. Thomas Edison acquired the Glenmont Estate in 1886 and resided there until his death in 1931. Mina Edison continued to live at the estate until her death in 1947. Originally interred in Rosedale Cemetery in nearby Orange, both Thomas and Mina were reinterred at the Glenmont Estate in 1963 at the request of their children.

In 1955, the Glenmont Estate was designated the Edison Home National Historic Site and was acquired by the National Park Service in 1959, which began administering the site along with the Edison Laboratory National Monument, established in 1956. The home and laboratory were both redesignated as Edison National Historic Site in 1962, and later changed to Thomas Edison National Historical Park in 2009. The Glenmont Estate also contributes to the Llewellyn Park Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 26, 1986.

**HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

Prior to European settlement, American Indians—particularly the Hackensack tribe, occupied the banks of the Passaic River to the east of the present day Glenmont site. Near the Glenmont Estate, the first European settlers arrived in the late 1670s and built houses, cleared fields, farmed the land, and started industries. The Glenmont lands eventually became part of Llewellyn Park, a planned community begun in 1853 (platted in 1857) by Llewellyn Haskell. With assistance from architect Alexander Jackson Davis, landscape architects Eugene Baumann and Howard Daniels, and others, Haskell created a picturesque residential suburb that included curvilinear roads, native and exotic trees, and rustic architecture.

The parcel that became the Glenmont Estate remained undeveloped until Henry Pedder purchased the property in 1879. With the assistance from architect Henry Hudson Holly and landscape gardener Nathan Franklin Barrett, Pedder had a Queen-Anne style home constructed within a stylized rural landscape based on the naturalistic design principles popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing. The property included winding drives, expansive lawns, informal groupings of ornamental trees and shrubs, flower gardens, carpet bedding, and numerous service related functions including a barn, carriage house, greenhouse, orchard, and vegetable garden. In 1884, Henry Pedder was accused of embezzlement by his employer, Arnold Constable & Company. Shortly thereafter, the company acquired the property.

In 1886, Arnold Constable & Company sold the property to Thomas A. Edison. After acquiring the property, Mina Edison assumed the lead role in the management and operation of the Glenmont grounds. During the early years, the property was minimally altered and continued to be maintained in
the same manner as it had prior to Edison ownership. However, by the early 1900s, Mina commissioned landscape gardener Ernest Bowditch to redesign the grounds. Although it seems that most of his plans were never executed, the Edisons valued his land planning concepts and later implemented some of those ideas, which included relocating and unifying service buildings and structures further away from the house. Significant changes that occurred during the early 1900s included the establishment of additional flower beds; the construction of a garage, pool, gardeners cottage, potting shed, greenhouse (replaced an earlier building), tool shed, playhouse, and summerhouse; the relocation of the chicken house and cow barn; and removal of the well house. In later years, the Edisons gradually simplified the landscape. By 1920, the Pedder barn, sections of path, and carpet bedding were removed or abandoned. However, the Edisons continued to make improvements to the landscape up until c.1926 with the construction of an organically-shaped skating pond. In 1931, Thomas Edison died at the age of 84.

Between 1931 and 1947, the character of the Glenmont landscape was carefully preserved as Mina Edison continued to manage the property. During this period, improvements to the grounds were mostly discrete additions, which included the planting of a rose garden and the redesign of the flower garden adjacent to the greenhouse and gardener’s cottage. Following Mina Edison’s death in 1947, Edison’s company, Thomas A. Edison, Inc., maintained the house and grounds and occasionally used the unoccupied home for entertaining. In the years that followed, gardening ceased, many buildings and structures deteriorated, and the majority of vegetation became overgrown.

In 1955, the Glenmont Estate was designated as the Edison Home National Historic Site. The property was eventually deeded to the National Park Service by the McGraw-Edison Company (formerly Thomas A. Edison, Inc.) in 1959. In subsequent years, the National Park Service made several changes to enhance and preserve the historic character of the landscape, as well as to address visitor accessibility and safety. These changes included the restoration and/or rehabilitation of many buildings and structures, and the installation of directional signs, lighting, trash receptacles, interpretative signage, and parking areas.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Glenmont is significant as part of Thomas Edison National Historical Park and also as a contributing resource within the Llewellyn Park Historic District. The Glenmont landscape derives significance under Criterion B for its association with American inventor, scientist, and businessman Thomas Alva Edison and under Criterion C in the areas of community planning and development, landscape architecture, and architecture. In the area of community planning and development, the Glenmont landscape is significant as a contributing resource within the Llewellyn Park Historic District. In the area of landscape architecture, the Glenmont Estate is significant as an independent work of landscape design that reflects the naturalistic design principles practiced by Andrew Jackson Downing. The Glenmont house is significant as a distinctive example of Queen Anne-style architecture designed by Henry Hudson Holly and the Gardener’s Cottage and Potting Shed and Garage are both rare surviving examples of monolithic concrete construction developed by Thomas Edison. The Glenmont landscape also derives significance under Criteria Considerations B and C as the reinterment site of Thomas and
Mina Edison. The overall period of significance for the property begins in 1857 with the establishment of Llewellyn Park, and extends to 1931, the year of Thomas Edison’s death. Beyond this aggregate span of years, 1963 has been determined significant as the date when Thomas and Mina were reinterred at the Glenmont Estate.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

Many of the Glenmont landscape’s historic characteristics and features are still intact. The house—located in the northern portion of the property—remains situated within an expansive manicured lawn, scattered with single specimen and clumps of trees and shrubs. The spatial relationships between the main house and surrounding service related functions, local roads, and driveways and paths are intact. The property remains bounded by Park Way and Glen Avenue and the main and secondary drives—connected by cobblestone-lined Honeysuckle Avenue—continue to follow the same historic alignment within the landscape. While some pedestrian paths have been removed or abandoned over time, portions that remain are unchanged since the historic period. Extant historic buildings and structures include the Queen-Anne style house, gardener’s cottage, potting shed and greenhouse, garage, and chicken house and cow barn. Smaller buildings and structures in the landscape include the pump house, hose house, skating pond site, concrete basin (pool), stone boundary wall, and hot bed foundation. The majority of ornamental plantings and vegetative features within the landscape remain intact, as well as the viewsheds, which includes the east view from the house and the main entrance drive view. There are also many small-scale features that currently exist in the landscape that date to the historic period including bluestone stoop, gas light poles, utility structures, clothesline posts, and a remnant of a rustic fence.

Since the end of the historic period in 1931, some landscape characteristics and features that once reflected the domestic use and rural ideal of the Edison family were removed. These features included paths in the west lawn and woodland, pastures and meadows, orchards, flower and vegetable gardens, vines on buildings and structures, and a summerhouse and playhouse. Additions to the landscape are primarily associated with National Park Service visitor facilities, which include parking areas, fireproof metal structure, benches and receptacles, and signs. Despite some changes in vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, and small-scale features, the landscape retains overall integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Glenmont Estate is in good condition and shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Despite maintenance deficiencies identified as part of the recently completed Cultural Landscape Report (2010), the site’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.
Site Plan
Existing Conditions, Overview.
Existing Conditions, Section Two.
Existing Conditions, Section Three.
Existing Conditions, Section Four.
Existing Conditions, Section Five.
Existing Conditions, Section Six.
Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Glenmont Estate
Property Level: Landscape
CLI Identification Number: 650002
Parent Landscape: 650002

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code: Thomas Edison National Historical Park -EDIS
Park Organization Code: 1840
Park Administrative Unit: Edison National Historic Site

CLI Hierarchy Description

Thomas Edison National Historical Park is comprised of two cultural landscapes: Glenmont Estate and the Edison Laboratory Complex.
Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

In 2010, a cultural landscape report entitled, “Cultural Landscape Report for Glenmont, Thomas Edison National Historical Park, West Orange, New Jersey,” was prepared by Michael Comisso, Rose Marques, and Eliot Foulds of the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. Field work for the report was completed in January, April, and July 2009. The park contact for cultural resources is Michelle Ortwein, Supervisory Museum Curator. She can be reached by telephone at (973) 736-0550 ext. 31 or by email at Michelle_Ortwein@nps.gov.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 07/25/2011
National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination: 09/22/2011

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State of New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the findings of the CLI on September 22, 2011. The SHPO had no additional comments on the report.

Concurrence Graphic Information:
Park concurrence was received on July 25, 2011.
June 20, 2015

Mr. Reidenbach,

As I write this letter, I am revisiting the Cultural Landscape Inventory file for the Glenmont Estate, which is an important part of the Thomas Edison National Historical Park. I am also preparing for the upcoming National Park Service (NPS) review of the Cultural Landscape Inventory, which is scheduled for later this year. I am confident that the NPS review will result in a more comprehensive and accurate Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Glenmont Estate.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory includes a detailed analysis of the site’s cultural and natural resources, including its historic buildings, structures, and landscapes. The inventory also includes a comprehensive assessment of the site’s cultural and natural resources, including its historic buildings, structures, and landscapes. The inventory also includes a comprehensive assessment of the site’s cultural and natural resources, including its historic buildings, structures, and landscapes.

In conclusion, I am confident that the NPS review will result in a more comprehensive and accurate Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Glenmont Estate. I look forward to working with you and the NPS team to ensure that the Glenmont Estate is properly documented and preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Title]

[Organization]
SHPO concurrence was received on September 22, 2011.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:
The Glenmont Estate, which consists of 15.67 acres, is situated within the Llewellyn Park Historic District. It is bounded by Park Way and the Llewellyn Park Ramble on the south and west, Glen Avenue on the east, and private properties to the north.

State and County:
- State: NJ
- County: Essex County
- Size (Acres): 15.67
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Location Map. Location of the Glenmont Estate and Thomas Edison National Historical Park (Google Map, 2009, annotated by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation).
Regional Context:

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**
The Glenmont Estate today is a well preserved rural landscape that reflects the history of the Edison family, as well as the naturalistic and picturesque design principles popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing. Situated within the Llewellyn Park Historic District, the 15.67-acre Glenmont Estate—initially developed between 1879 and 1884, includes a Queen-Anne style house set within an open lawn dotted with scattered masses of trees and shrubs, curving drives and walks, flower and vegetable gardens, and a variety of service related buildings and structures.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**
The Glenmont Estate is located within the Piedmont Province region, which extends from the Hudson River in New York to Alabama and has a maximum width of about 125 miles. It is divided into Upland and Lowland sections, with New Jersey, falling into the Piedmont Lowland physiographic province. The Piedmont Lowland, also known as the Newark Basin or Triassic Lowlands, is characterized as having gently undulating terrain that gradually slopes from the New Jersey Highlands to the Coastal Plain. Its rolling topography is occasionally interrupted by ridges of erosion-resistant igneous rock types, diabase and basalt, commonly called traprock. The most prominent traprock ridges in this region are the three Watchung Mountain ranges (also known as the Orange Mountains). Llewellyn Park, including the Glenmont Estate, is located on the southeastern slope of the easternmost range of the Watchung Mountains. The native surface soils of the area include glacial till and glacial outwash, categorized as Boonton silt loam, redstone lowland. Soil characteristics consist of humus, silt loam, and gravelly sandy loam (see Regional Landscape Context graphic).

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**
The Glenmont Estate, part of Thomas Edison National Historical Park, is located in the township of West Orange. West Orange is roughly 12.1 square miles with a population of around 45,000. The township is located in Essex County, New Jersey’s most populated county, with over 800,000 residents. The majority of the county’s residents live in the city of Newark, located just three miles east of the park. The Manhattan borough of New York City lies less than twenty miles to the east.
Regional Landscape Context. Current aerial view of the Glenmont property, Thomas Edison National Historical Park, within Llewellyn Park (NASA aerial c.2007, reproduced from Google Earth, annotated by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation.)
Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained
Management Category Date: 07/25/2011

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:
The Glenmont Estate meets the criteria for the “Must be Preserved and Maintained” management category as defined in the “Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide.” The preservation of the site is specifically identified in the legislation of Thomas Edison National Historical Park, which calls for the commemoration of Thomas Alva Edison through the preservation of his research, laboratory complex, estate, and their collections (Secretarial Order F.R. 9347, Presidential Proclamation 3148 and P.L. 87-628).

NPS Legal Interest:
Type of interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:
Type of Access: Unrestricted
Explanatory Narrative:
Visitor services are located on the first floor of the gardener’s cottage and potting shed, which serves as a gift shop and orientation area for the Glenmont Estate. The park charges an entrance fee that includes access to the Glenmont Estate and the Laboratory Complex. The grounds are accessible by foot and the majority of the buildings (house, gardener’s cottage, potting shed, and greenhouse) are open to the public. Visitors to the Glenmont Estate are required to go through a security gate at the entrance of the Llewellyn Park residential neighborhood. Interpretative signage and cell phone tours are available for visitors.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes
Adjacent Lands Description:
The Glenmont Estate is located within the historic residential community of Llewellyn Park. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Llewellyn Park is considered one of the earliest planned residential subdivisions in the United States. The picturesque residential park, created by Llewellyn Haskell, served as a model for urban and suburban development during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:
Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:
On December 6, 1955, the Glenmont Estate was designated as Edison Home National Historic Site. It was later combined with Edison Laboratory National Monument to form Edison National Historic Site on September 5, 1962. As part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11, Section 7110), Edison National Historic Site was redesignated as the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in March 2009.

The site was administratively added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966, with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. National Register documentation for the 21-acre site was completed on March 10, 1980. The nomination form (NRIS #66000052) identified significance under Criterion A within the areas of industry and science and Criterion B for its association with the scientific achievements and the private life of Thomas Alva Edison. The period of significance was listed as beginning in 1887 with the construction of the laboratory complex and ending in 1931, the year of Thomas Edison’s death. While the nomination form did not adequately detail the significance of the Glenmont landscape, it identified seven major features of the property: Glenmont (house), Gardener’s Cottage and Potting Shed, Greenhouse, Garage, Barn, Pump House, and Hose House.

On February 28, 1986, the Glenmont Estate was also listed in the National Register as a contributing resource within the Llewellyn Park Historic District (NRIS #86000423). The 422-acre district is locally significant in the areas of architecture, community planning, and landscape architecture. Although not explicitly stated in the National Register documentation, the period of significance for the district begins in 1857 with the establishment of Llewellyn Park and extends to 1913 when the widespread subdivision of its large residential lots began. As part of the district, Glenmont’s significance dates to 1880, the year during which Henry Pedder began the construction of the residence. While the documentation generally described the topography and vegetation of the area around the Glenmont Estate and the four distinct areas of the park (the Ramble, the Glen, the Forest, the Hill), it did not specifically document the significance of the Glenmont landscape.

On July 1, 1996, the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with National Park Service’s evaluations of the park’s historic resources, as part of the List of Classified Structures program update. In addition to agreeing with the National Park Service that Glenmont (house), Gardener’s Cottage and Potting Shed, Greenhouse, Garage, Barn, Pump House, and Hose House were contributing resources, the SHPO also agreed that the Edison Grave Sites were also contributing resources and that 1963, the year of Thomas and Mina Edison’s reinterment, should be a second period of significance.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation
Glenmont Estate
Thomas Edison National Historical Park

outlined in the “CLI Professional Procedures Guide,” the Glenmont Estate is inadequately documented based on the existing National Register documentation and previous correspondence with the New Jersey SHPO. None of the features related to spatial organization, vegetation, or views have been documented. While most of the site’s geologic and topographic characteristics, roads, and major buildings have been documented, other historically important structures, circulation features, and small-scale features have not. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the property is considered “Entered-Inadequately Documented.”

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register: Edison National Historic Site
NRIS Number: 66000052
Primary Certification Date: 03/10/1980
Name in National Register: Llewellyn Park Historic District
NRIS Number: 86000423
Primary Certification Date: 02/26/1986

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual: Individual
National Register Classification: Site
Significance Level: National
Significance Criteria: B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
Significance Criteria: C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Criteria Considerations: B -- A building or structure removed from its original location
C -- A birthplace or grave
### Period of Significance:

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Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Science

Area of Significance Category: Industry

Area of Significance Category: Community Planning and Development

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Statement of Significance:

The Glenmont Estate is significant under Criterion B for its association with the productive life and work of Thomas Alva Edison who lived on the property between 1886 and 1931, and who possessed an unsurpassed technological genius and industriousness that made him preeminent among the inventors of the 20th century. The Glenmont Estate is also significant under Criterion C in the areas of community planning and development, landscape architecture, and architecture. In the area of community planning and development, the Glenmont Estate is significant as a rare surviving large tract component of Llewellyn Park, one of the earliest planned residential subdivisions in the United States. The early railroad suburb Llewellyn Park was a mid-nineteenth century designed community modeling environmental values and landscape forms that adapted building sites and civic infrastructure to existing topography, these practices being widely adopted and implemented nationwide during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century throughout the United States. In the area of landscape architecture, the Glenmont Estate is significant as an independent work of landscape design, typifying the approach to the design of rural residences popularized in the United States by the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing, who proposed that design choices regarding the development of buildings and grounds should be in sympathy with the pre-existing qualities of landscape topography and vegetation. In the area of architecture, Glenmont (house) is significant as a distinctive example of Queen Anne-style designed by Henry Hudson Holly and the Gardener’s Cottage and Potting Shed and Garage are both rare surviving examples of monolithic concrete construction developed by Thomas Edison. The Glenmont Estate also derives significance under Criteria Considerations B and C as the reinterment site of Thomas and Mina Edison.

The overall period of significance for the property begins in 1857 with the establishment of Llewellyn Park, and extends to 1931, the year of Thomas Edison’s death. Beyond this aggregate span of years, 1963 has been determined significant as the date when Thomas and Mina were reinterred at the Glenmont Estate.
CRITERION B

The Glenmont Estate is nationally significant under Criterion B for its association with Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931), an American inventor, scientist, and businessman who developed many devices and obtained approximately 1,093 patents that significantly improved life around the world. Following the death of his first wife, Mary Stillwell, Edison eventually moved to West Orange, New Jersey in 1886 when he purchased the Glenmont Estate as a wedding gift for his fiancée Mina. By this time, Edison was already well established and renowned as the inventor of the electric light and electrical generating system (CLR, 2010: 162).

Shortly after the purchase of the Glenmont Estate, Edison built a laboratory complex, approximately one mile east of his home in West Orange. Completed in November 1887, the Laboratory served as the inventor’s headquarters for the remaining forty-four years of his life. At the Laboratory, Edison developed the phonograph, the first successful motion picture camera, and a host of other important inventions and patents. In addition to his inventions and his industrial accomplishments, Edison made two significant discoveries in pure science. One was “etheric force,” the electromagnetic waves later used in radio transmission; the other, a fundamental phenomenon of electronics which has since become known as the “Edison Effect” and which led to a worldwide advance in radio communications and space technology (CLR, 2010: 162; citing “National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Edison National Historic Site,” Sec.8, pg. 1).

While the majority of Edison’s time was spent at the Laboratory, the Glenmont Estate was a place of rest and solitude for himself, his family, and occasional guests, which included the King of Siam, President Herbert Hoover, Helen Keller, Orville Wright, Henry Ford, and Harvey Firestone. It was also a site for occasional experimentation. During the years Edison was involved in the Portland cement business and experimentation with concrete houses, he constructed a garage, two-story concrete gardener’s cottage, and pool (now referred to as the concrete basin) on the grounds, all of which survive today (CLR, 2010: 162).

CRITERION C

Community Planning and Development:
The Glenmont Estate is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of community planning and development as a contributing resource within the Llewellyn Park Historic District. The district represents an early and influential picturesque residential subdivision that served as a model for urban and suburban development during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (CLR, 2010:163; citing “National Register Bulletin: Historic Residential Suburbs,” pg. 38-39).

Realizing the significant improvements in transportation infrastructure, notably the railroad, and the upper and upper-middle classes desire to move away from the poor living conditions, air quality, and health hazards that plagued crowded cities in the mid-nineteenth century, Llewellyn Haskell purchased a sixty-five acre tract of semi-wilderness and farmland on the southeastern slope of Orange Mountain
(now known as West Orange). Soon after, he engaged his friend and neighbor Alexander Jackson Davis, a prominent New York architect, to transform an old farmhouse on the property into a picturesque rustic dwelling, which was later called the Eyrie. By 1857, Haskell had acquired an additional 350 acres south of the sixty-five acres where he envisioned a large residential park to be laid out according to the naturalistic gardening principles advocated by John Claudius Loudon and Andrew Jackson Downing, and reflecting the layout and forms promoted by the Rural Cemetery movement (CLR, 2010: 163).

With assistance from Alexander Jackson Davis and landscape architects, Haskell created a picturesque residential park that contrasted sharply with the gridiron street layout then popular in most urban areas. Sharing many of the characteristics seen throughout the park, residential sites such as the Glenmont Estate, displayed similar naturalistic and picturesque qualities. The style of homes, some of which were designed by Alexander Jackson Davis, consisted of an eclectic mix of romantic and Victorian revivals. In the twentieth century several physical changes adversely impacted the Llewellyn Park landscape, notably the introduction of new roads and subdivision of existing lots after 1913 and the construction of Interstate Highway 280 completed in 1973. Despite these changes, the character and design of Llewellyn Park remains intact and continues to embody the ideals that set the framework for later suburbs laid out in the picturesque style (CLR, 2010: 163).

Landscape Architecture:
The Glenmont Estate is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture as an embodiment of the naturalistic landscape design principles popularized in the United States by Andrew Jackson Downing. In his influential 1841 publication, “A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening,” Downing reinterpreted principles of English landscape gardeners and provided extensive instructions on the location, layout, and plantings of rural homes. He introduced an American audience to the ideals of naturalistic landscape gardening, characterized as “Picturesque” or “Beautiful,” that sought to make design choices that were aesthetically compatible with the natural environment. The “Beautiful” was expressed through smooth, graceful, and harmonious elements such as sweeping lawns, curving drives, and clumps of trees, while the “Picturesque” was associated with the untamed aspects of nature through its rough, wild, and irregular forms including spiky evergreens, rock outcroppings, and rustic architecture. Downing’s naturalistic gardening principles eventually attracted a popular following and established the philosophical underpinnings for the subsequent development of many residential landscapes, parks, and planned suburbs, among these Llewellyn Park—considered one of the earliest planned residential subdivisions in the United States (CLR, 2010: 164).

Llewellyn Park, begun in 1853 (platted in 1857) by drug importer Llewellyn Haskell with assistance from Alexander Jackson Davis, and landscape architects Eugene Baumann and Howard Daniels, featured a layout of curvilinear roads, irregular lot divisions, native and exotic trees, rustic buildings and furnishings, and a common natural park that came to be known as the “Ramble.” In an effort to harmonize with the environment, many individual residential sites—such as the Glenmont Estate, were also laid out according to the principles promoted by Downing (CLR, 2010: 164).
Between 1879 and 1884, Henry Pedder, a confidential clerk at Arnold Constable and Company, hired architect Henry Hudson Holly and landscape gardener Nathan Franklin Barrett to construct a Queen-Anne style home constructed within a stylized rural landscape based on the popular naturalistic and picturesque style of landscape gardening. The house was located within an expansive manicured lawn and enframed by single specimen and clumps of trees and shrubs. Beyond the house were pastures and service-related functions, including a barn, chicken house and stable, greenhouse complex and vegetable and flower gardens. A series of curvilinear drives meandered through the landscape, as well as a network of sinuous walks and paths in the west and southwest portions of the property. Additional features included oval, teardrop, quadrilateral, and arabesque-shaped ornamental flowerbeds planted in various “bedding-out” schemes (CLR, 2010: 164).

When Thomas and Mina Edison purchased the Glenmont Estate in 1886, they retained the pre-existing naturalistic design elements, as well as the then fashionable carpet bedding. Between 1907 and 1910, the Edisons hired landscape gardener Ernest W. Bowditch to redesign the grounds. Despite his efforts to overlay neoclassical elements onto the Glenmont landscape, the Edisons preferred the pre-existing naturalistic approach popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing and found throughout Llewellyn Park. However, they did follow the general concept of Bowditch’s design for the grounds, with regards to his land planning principles and the spatial organization of the property, specifically relocating and unifying service buildings and structures away from the house (CLR, 2010: 164).

In later years, the Edisons gradually simplified the landscape. By 1920, the Pedder barn, sections of path, carpet bedding, and container plants were removed or abandoned. However, they continued to make improvements to the landscape in the naturalistic style until c.1926 with the construction of the skating pond. The organically-shaped pond was lined with stone and featured a skating shack and rustic dry-laid stone steps (CLR, 2010: 164).

Architecture:
Although documenting significance in the area of architecture is beyond the scope of this cultural landscape inventory, the Glenmont house (No. HS 10) is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture as a distinctive example of Queen Anne-style designed by Henry Hudson Holly. Additional architectural significance includes the Gardener’s Cottage and Potting Shed (No. HS 11) and Garage (No. HS 15) as rare surviving examples of monolithic concrete construction developed by Thomas Edison. Architectural significance is fully discussed in the existing National Register documentation for the Llewellyn Park Historic District and in the Edison National Historic Site National Register documentation (CLR, 2010: 165-166).

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS B AND C

The Glenmont Estate is significant under Criteria Considerations B (Moved Properties) and C (Birthplaces or Graves) as the reinterment site of Thomas and Mina Edison. On April 3, 1963, at the request of their children and prior approval of the Trustees and the Committee of Managers of Llewellyn Park, the remains of Thomas and Mina were moved from their resting place in Rosedale Cemetery, located along the border of Montclair, Orange, and West Orange, N.J., to the Glenmont
Glenmont Estate
Thomas Edison National Historical Park

Estate. The gravesite is situated within a large grouping of rhododendrons and mountain laurels and contains the same stone ledgers that marked the graves at Rosedale Cemetery. It also includes a decorative cedar fence and two stone lanterns that were given as a gift from Japan in 1935 (CLR, 2010: 165).

**State Register Information**

- **Identification Number:** 1366
- **Date Listed:** 10/15/1966
- **Name:** Edison National Historic Site

- **Identification Number:** 1368
- **Date Listed:** 12/20/1985
- **Name:** Llewellyn Park Historic District

**National Historic Landmark Information**

- **National Historic Landmark Status:** No
Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Single Family House
Primary Current Use: Museum (Exhibition Hall)-Other

Other Use/Function

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subdivision/Planned Community</th>
<th>Other Type of Use or Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leisure-Passive (Park)</td>
<td>Both Current And Historic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental Garden</td>
<td>Both Current And Historic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Glenmont Both Current And Historic
Glenmont Estate Current

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Annotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AD 1667</td>
<td>Inhabited</td>
<td>Prior to 1667, Hackensacks, tribe related to the Lenni Lenape, are active along the banks of the Passaic River to the east of the present day Glenmont site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1853 - 1857</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold</td>
<td>Llewellyn Haskell acquires sixty-five acres atop Eagle Rock from Henry Walker, including an old farmhouse. Shortly thereafter in 1857 he purchases 350 acres on the slope of the mountain below the sixty-five acres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1857</td>
<td>Established</td>
<td>Llewellyn Haskell establishes Llewellyn Park, the earliest planned residential subdivision in the United States, which includes the future site of the Glenmont Estate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1857-1870</td>
<td>Planned Haskell lays out the residential park according to the principles advocated by Andrew Jackson Downing. The picturesque park features curvilinear roads, springs, and streams, native and exotic trees, stone and rustic bridges, and a common natural park that came to be known as the “Ramble.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1877-1870</td>
<td>Expanded Llewellyn Park reaches the height of its development, but noticeably the future site of the Glenmont Estate—a seemingly choice parcel—remains undeveloped. The entire development, including building lots, roads, and the common land, covered approximately 750 acres with more than 100 residential lots.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1877-1881</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold Henry Pedder purchases a 10.47-acre parcel in 1879 from Mr. and Mrs. James M. Ward. In 1881, Pedder increases his holdings with purchase of an adjoining 3.07-acre parcel from David E. Green.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1880-1882</td>
<td>Built Pedder hires Henry Hudson Holly, a New York City architect, to design a new house at the cost of $200,000. By 1882, the house is complete. Planned Pedder commissions Nathan Franklin Barrett to lay out the Glenmont grounds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1880-1884</td>
<td>Built With assistance from Barrett, Pedder has a stylized rural landscape constructed based on the popular naturalistic and picturesque style of landscape gardening. The property includes winding drives, expansive lawns, informal groupings of trees and shrubs, as well as a barn, carriage house, greenhouse, informal and formal flower beds, orchard, and vegetable garden.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1884</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold Arnold Constable &amp; Company take over possession of Glenmont after it is found that Pedder embezzled funds from the company.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1886</td>
<td>Purchased/Sold Thomas Edison purchases Glenmont from Arnold Constable &amp; Company.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1891</td>
<td>Built A new well, fitted with an electrical pump, is drilled to the north of the original well that same year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Range</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1899</td>
<td>Removed</td>
<td>Original well house is removed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1902 - 1903</td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>Fire hydrant is installed between the north side of the house and Honeysuckle Avenue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1904</td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>The hose house is constructed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1907 - 1910</td>
<td>Designed</td>
<td>Mina Edison hires landscape gardener Ernest Bowditch to prepare a series of plans for the redevelopment of the grounds. Despite the many plans and renderings prepared by Bowditch, the majority of his plans were likely never implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1907 - 1908</td>
<td>Moved</td>
<td>Chicken house/cow barn is relocated across Honeysuckle Avenue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>With assistance from Frank D. Lambie, owner of the New York Steel Form Company, Edison constructs a garage and a two-story concrete gardener’s cottage and potting shed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>During construction of the gardener’s cottage and potting shed, Mina turns to Pierson U-Bar Company to design and build a greenhouse complex. It is constructed in the same location as the previous greenhouse built by Pedder and completed by 1908.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1910 - 1925</td>
<td>Planted</td>
<td>Two hemlock hedges—leading from the barn to the road (presumably along the north side of the stone boundary wall) and along Honeysuckle Avenue—are replaced with new hemlocks; and the barn is screened with Lombardy poplars, hemlocks, and white and Austrian pines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1910 - 1916</td>
<td>Removed</td>
<td>The Edisons gradually simplify the landscape. Carpet bedding and container plants are removed, followed by a few damaged trees in 1916.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1920</td>
<td>Removed</td>
<td>The old Pedder barn is in disrepair and unoccupied, prompting Mina to have the building removed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>Mina has a bird fountain designed and installed on the lawn near the house.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Range</td>
<td>Event Type</td>
<td>Event Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1925 - 1926</td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>Mina has Pentecost &amp; Martin, Inc., Landscape Architects, and William Neill and Son, Landscape Engineers and Contractors, constructs a new skating pond in the former location of the Pedder barn. It replaced a previous pond built in the early 1900s. The pond, however, is poorly constructed and does not retain water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1926</td>
<td>Designed</td>
<td>Disappointed with the pond, Mina turns to Ellen Biddle Shipman to redesign the skating pond in 1926. Although estimates are prepared for Shipman’s proposal, it is unclear as to whether or not her design was ever implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1927 - 1929</td>
<td>Built</td>
<td>Exterior alterations are made to the cow barn including the installation of an iron fence enclosing the chicken runs and a wooden rail fence for the cow area. Other notable changes include improvements to the irrigation systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1931 - 1935</td>
<td>Planted</td>
<td>Rose garden is constructed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1937</td>
<td>Altered</td>
<td>Mina has the formal flower garden redesigned in 1937. Mina chooses to include features that had been recommended in a series of plans that were created by Ellen Shipman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1935 - 1940</td>
<td>Altered</td>
<td>Planted islands within main drives are altered based on damage caused by vehicles. Other changes include the planting of rhododendrons along the perimeter of the laundry yard and the removal of the playhouse and summerhouse to the north of the house, and the deutzias at the southern end of the oval lawn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1940 - 1950</td>
<td>Land Transfer</td>
<td>Many large estates within Llewellyn Park are subdivided. The Glenmont Estate is the only property in Llewellyn Park not subdivided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1946</td>
<td>Land Transfer</td>
<td>Mina sells the Glenmont Estate to Thomas A. Edison, Inc.—the company founded by Thomas Edison in 1911. Mina retains a life estate in the property, and remains in the residence until her death in 1947.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1947 - 1955</td>
<td>Removed</td>
<td>Following the death of Mina, the grounds are simplified. A portion of east end of the greenhouse (used for seedlings and chrysanthemums, constructed in the 1920s) begins to deteriorate and eventually has to be removed. Within the west lawn, a portion of the historic paths become overgrown and sod-covered. With the exception of the flower garden located along the south elevation of the greenhouse, the majority of gardens found within the property fall into disuse. In addition, several of the fruit trees, located within the fruit garden and near the vegetable garden, are also removed due to age-related decline or disease. Burning areas are soon established in the former vegetable garden and pasture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1955</td>
<td>Memorialized</td>
<td>On December 6, 1955, the Glenmont Estate is designated the Edison Home National Historic Site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1960 - 1973</td>
<td>Altered</td>
<td>Interstate Highway 280 is built through the western portion of the Llewellyn Park, substantially reducing its overall acreage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1961 - 1963</td>
<td>Altered</td>
<td>As the park prepares for Glenmont’s public opening on May 1961, initial improvements are completed, including the installation of catch basins and hydrants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1962</td>
<td>Established</td>
<td>Edison Home National Historic Site and Edison Laboratory National Monument are combined and designated as the Edison National Historic Site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1963</td>
<td>Memorialized</td>
<td>Thomas and Mina Edison are reinterred at the Glenmont Estate on April 3, 1963. The gravesite is sited on the west lawn within a large grouping of rhododendrons, laurels, and Japanese maples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restored</td>
<td>Park implements some of the recommendations set forth in the General Development Plan beginning with the restoration of the rose garden in 1963.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Glenmont Estate
#### Thomas Edison National Historical Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AD 1964</td>
<td>Reconstructed</td>
<td>The hose house is reconstructed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1965 - 1970</td>
<td>Removed</td>
<td>Because of the intensive maintenance, additional paths and some flower gardens are removed by the mid-1960s. Other features removed include the burning areas and toolshed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1966</td>
<td>Reconstructed</td>
<td>The gazebo bird feeder is rebuilt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1971</td>
<td>Planned</td>
<td>The park proposes the development of a footpath from the visitor center (near the intersection of Main Street and Edisonia Terrace) to the east of Honeysuckle Road. However, the plan is later dismissed because of opposition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1980 - 1985</td>
<td>Altered</td>
<td>A security system along with ground-lighting is installed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Removed</td>
<td>Despite National Park Service efforts to restore the rose garden in the 1960s, the shrubs struggled and the rose garden eventually is removed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1985</td>
<td>Restored</td>
<td>The National Park Service commissions Viola Construction Company to restore the grounds to its 1931 appearance. The work includes re-establishing the walkways, garden paths, driveways, and flagstone curbing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1992</td>
<td>Altered</td>
<td>The Glenmont security system is upgraded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 2002 - 2003</td>
<td>Rehabilitated</td>
<td>Glenmont is closed to the public for renovations. Work includes installation of geothermal HVAC system within the house, as well as the installation of fire detection and suppression systems. Besides work to the house, other improvements include exterior improvements to the barn, greenhouse, and gardener’s cottage and potting shed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 2009</td>
<td>Established</td>
<td>Edison National Historic Site is redesignated as the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in March of 2009.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Physical History:


PRE-HISTORY TO 1879

American Indian Occupation:
European settlement in the Newark area, which includes today’s West Orange, began even as American Indians – particularly the Hackensacks, a tribe related to the Leni Lenape – were active along the banks of the Passaic River to the east of the present day Glenmont site. Late nineteenth century accounts indicate minor American Indian trails in the immediate vicinity of Glenmont including at the notches of Eagle Rock, Mount Pleasant, and Northfield Avenues, while evidence of American Indian settlements has also been found. At the time of early European settlement, “a few wigwams [were present] in Tory Corner,” about one quarter of a mile from Glenmont. Other native settlements were also located less than three miles from Glenmont (CLR, 2010: 12; citing Beadenkopf, Davis, and Brown, “Archeological Overview and Assessment, Edison National Historic Site,” pg. 8, citing Marshall [1982]).

Colonial Settlement of the Oranges:
The Newark area was settled by a group of Connecticut Puritans from the settlements of Milford and Branford, and they were soon joined by families from nearby Guilford and New Haven. In the spring of 1666, Robert Treat, the leader of the Milford group, led about thirty families aboard two or more boats to the banks of the Passaic River. On July 11, 1667, the colonists and the Hackensacks signed a treaty giving the colonists a tract of land that included present-day Newark, Montclair, Bloomfield, Nutley, Belleville, Glen Ridge, most of the Oranges and Irvington, along with parts of Maplewood and Short Hills (CLR, 2010: 13; citing Kristofer M. Beadenkopf, Zachary J. Davis, and Roderick S. Brown, “Archeological Overview and Assessment, Edison National Historic Site” (East Orange, NJ: The Louis Berger Group, Inc. 2007) [draft], 8-10, citing Marshall [1982]).

By 1678, Newark’s western boundary had extended to the top of the Orange Mountains. That same year, one of the first settlers, Anthony Oliff, established his homestead about 1,000 feet west of the future Glenmont site, near the intersection of Tulip Avenue and Oak Bend. By the 1730s, about 700 to 800 people lived in the village of Newark and its surrounding countryside, which included today’s South, East, and West Oranges. This area also saw military action during the American Revolution when the Battle of Watsessing was fought within or near Watsessing Park, between one and two miles to the east of Edison’s Laboratory. After the Revolution, cider mills and distilleries were established throughout the county. These became famous for the rich quality of the cider made from local Canfield and Harrison apples, and thousands of barrels were annually shipped to the South and other parts of the country. Some were even exported to Europe (CLR, 2010: 13).

In the Newark area, significant political, economic, and demographic changes took place during the years that followed the war and even into the mid- to late-nineteenth century. By 1783,
area citizens were already referring to themselves as occupants of an entity separate from Newark. But it was not until 1806 that the Township of Orange, including all present-day Oranges, actually separated from Newark’s political administration. Newark had failed to efficiently administer its outlying area, particularly as the population of Newark was rapidly expanding. Even Orange itself grew rapidly, with an initial population of about 2,200 in 1806 that increased to 4,000 by 1825 (CLR, 2010: 14).

Both the trends established prior to the Revolutionary War and the subsequent capitalist economy that became the foundation for the American Industrial Revolution had an impact on Orange. In the early part of the nineteenth century, entrepreneurs and skilled mechanics were drawn there. By 1832, Orange was home to two sawmills, one barkmill, forty tanvats, two taverns, three churches, and around 200 or 300 dwellings. By 1835 Orange became more closely linked to Newark by the Morris and Essex Railroad that ran from Newark to Morristown. With its transportation connection to other towns, it is hardly surprising that Orange’s population in 1850 was 4,385 but had grown to 9,382 by 1860, when it became incorporated as a town. Soon after, it began to fragment because of conflicts over city service levels. South Orange organized in 1861 and East Orange in 1863. West Orange incorporated as a township also in 1863 and then reformed as a town in 1900 (CLR, 2010: 14).

The Development of Llewellyn Park:
In response to the ill-effects of the rapidly industrialized American cities, the mid-nineteenth century witnessed a growing sentiment toward nature's ability to inspire and uplift the human spirit. This Romantic Movement, as it later was called, was influenced in part by the Hudson River School painters, Transcendentalist writers, and landscape gardeners who promoted the design of pastoral or natural style country residences removed from the congestion and noise of the city, but close enough for daily commuting. In short, the rapidly changing character of American cities and construction of improved transportation infrastructure was increasing the appeal of the rural countryside (CLR, 2010: 14).

The practice of landscape gardening in the United States was initially popularized for a middle-class audience by Andrew Jackson Downing. In his influential 1841 publication, “A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening”, Downing reinterpreted the principles of English landscape gardeners -- such as Humphry Repton, Lancelot “Capability” Brown, Richard Payne Knight, and the writings of John Claudius Loudon -- and provided extensive instructions on the location, layout, and plantings for rural homes. He introduced the ideals of naturalistic landscape gardening, characterized as "Picturesque" or "Beautiful," that sought to blend designed landscapes with the natural environment and featured an informal style of curvilinear shapes, changes in topography, babbling brooks, forest and glade plantings, and a sense of mystery with light and shade patterns. Downing established the main features of the private pleasure ground as: vistas, drives and walks, meadows, rockwork, rustic bridges, and wooded glades. The style manifested itself in sweeping lawns, curving drives, and groupings of trees. Largely because of Downing, designers became concerned with improving the potential of a site rather than imposing an artificial order on it. Gone was the early focus on strict geometry and enclosed dooryard spaces adjoining the home. Gardens became open, naturalistic, romantic, and focused on views of the surrounding countryside (CLR, 2010: 15;

In the ensuing years, Downing's naturalistic gardening principles attracted many followers, notably Frederick Law Olmsted, and eventually the style became known solely as the picturesque style of landscape design. In addition, it set forth the framework for the development of Llewellyn Park and later picturesque suburbs (CLR, 2010: 16).

In the early 1850s, Llewellyn S. Haskell (1815-1872), a prosperous New York City drug importer, was living in Kearny, New Jersey, when the condition of water and air in urban areas was notorious for carrying diseases. Following the death of four of his five children, Haskell and his wife sought a cleaner, healthier location in which to live. In 1852, Haskell visited a picturesque tract of semi-wilderness and farmland on the southeastern slope of Orange Mountain (now known as West Orange) at the suggestion of his friend, Alexander Jackson Davis (1803-1892), a prominent New York architect (CLR, 2010: 16).

The beauty of the land and panoramic views of the Orange Mountain area inspired Haskell in 1853 to purchase approximately sixty-five acres atop Eagle Rock from Henry Walker, including an old farmhouse. Shortly thereafter, he engaged Davis to transform the farmhouse into a picturesque rustic dwelling, which Haskell later called the “Eyrie.” By 1857, Haskell had acquired 350 acres on the slope of the mountain below the sixty-five acres on Eagle Rock (Figure 1) (CLR, 2010: 16).

Haskell envisioned a large residential park to be laid out according to the principles advocated by Andrew Jackson Downing. Natural terraces climbing the slope of the mountain were suitable for building sites, and a deep ravine, approximately fifty acres in size, became a centralized park and focal point for the individual lots. Initially, the fifty acres of common land became known as Llewellyn Park, but by 1860 the “park” moniker was extended to include the residential areas. The park land became known as the “Ramble.” On February 28, 1857, Haskell and his wife deeded the common land to three trustees, Augustus Moore, Thomas Merrick, and Edwin Burt. The deed, which marked the official beginning of Llewellyn Park, specified that the fifty common acres were to be used as “a private pleasure ground...to be freely...used and enjoyed, as a place of resort and recreation” by the separate owners of the villa sites. It also indicated that the park and roads were to be maintained by annual assessments from villa owners and controlled by an elected committee of managers. By 1860, Llewellyn Park was mostly complete. Haskell’s holdings had increased to 500 acres and he had spent over $100,000 laying out the residential areas, developing a series of curvilinear roads, and embellishing the lands held in common (CLR, 2010: 18; citing Llewellyn Park Deed between Llewellyn Haskell and Wife to Moore, Merrick, and Burt, February 28, 1857 [Essex County Office of the Registry, Book C10, pgs. 293 to 315]).

Beginning at Valley Road (now Main Street), Llewellyn Park was organized around the Ramble, which was composed of three distinct areas: the Entrance, Glen Ellyn, and Upper Ramble. These areas followed the natural topography, as well as Willow Brook, the stream that flowed through the center of the park land. The entrance area was set back from Main Street approximately 250 feet, and included a reflective pond called Willow Pond and a round,
stone gate lodge, designed by Alexander Jackson Davis, and occupied by the gardener with his young daughter c.1860. Beyond the entrance, Glen Ellyn (eventually referred to as the Glen) was a narrow strip of section of park land characterized by steep topography, woodlands, and glades. Extending northward, the topography gradually leveled out to a rolling, open meadow, referred to as the Upper Ramble. Organized into larger open areas surrounded by naturalized woodland, the Upper Ramble included a playground and a so-called “social circle.” Within these areas were groupings of oak, chestnut, hickory, and evergreen trees (CLR, 2010: 19; citing LANDSCAPES, “Llewellyn Park Ramble Landscape: Preservation & Maintenance Master Plan,” pgs. 15-21).

Encircling the Ramble were approximately ten miles of sinuously curving roads, and picturesque villa sites. Mature trees overarched roads that were bordered by flowering shrubs and wild flowers. Park vegetation consisted of an overstory of mature trees and an understory planted with hemlock, beeches, rhododendrons, and dogwoods. Other plantings included various maple types (sugar, silver and Norway), weeping willows, pines (Austrian pine and Pinus excelsa), deciduous cypress, ginkgo, double-flowering cherry, purple-leaved beech, mountain laurels, bohemian olives, horse chestnuts, and other varieties. Rustic seats, shelters, summerhouses, and arbors were sporadically located along the winding roads. These structures appeared only slightly removed from nature due to their simple construction and use of natural materials. In addition, these structures were strikingly similar to the concepts and examples illustrated in Downing’s 1841 “Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening” (CLR, 2010: 19; citing LANDSCAPES, “Llewellyn Park Ramble Landscape: Preservation & Maintenance Master Plan,” pgs. 15-21).

By 1870, the Llewellyn Park development had reached its height, but noticeably the future site of Glenmont – a seemingly choice parcel – remained undeveloped. The entire development, including building lots, roads, and the common land, covered approximately 750 acres with more than 100 residential lots, fifty of which were sold to thirty families in residence. Haskell died in 1872, effectively ending the prevailing romantic Gothic Revival style of architecture he favored in the park and leaving the park under the guidance of the park managers (CLR, 2010: 19).

While it is clear that Llewellyn Haskell and Alexander Jackson Davis initiated the development of Llewellyn Park, the actual design and layout cannot be attributed to any one individual, although several people appear to have influenced it. Eugene A. Baumann, a European landscape gardener who was new to the United States at the time, is credited with some assistance in the design of the park. In 1859, Baumann delineated plans of the Ramble, later to be published in Henry Winthrop Sargent’s Sixth Edition of Downing’s “Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening.” In addition, he laid out for Haskell approximately five acres of the grounds belonging to Arcade Cottage—one of the few cottages Haskell had constructed for promotional purposes. Howard Daniels, an architect and landscape gardener who eventually achieved fourth place in the Central Park design competition, is also credited with a role in the development of Llewellyn Park. Others who may have contributed to shaping the park’s design include Llewellyn Wheeler and at least one local gardener, James MacGall (or McGall), who came to Orange from Bermuda and claimed that it was he “laid out Llewellyn Park” (CLR, 2010: 22; citing Jane B. Davies, “Llewellyn Park in West Orange, New Jersey,”
“Antiques,” January 1975, 144-147).

Figure 1. This 1857 plan entitled “Llewellyn Park and Villa Sites on Eagle Ridge in Orange & West Bloomfield Essex County, N.J.” shows the layout of the plots of land and an architectural sketch of Haskell’s home, the Eyrie (Llewellyn Park Archives).

PEDDER, ARNOLD CONSTABLE & COMPANY OWNERSHIP, 1879-1886

Naturalistic and Picturesque Design Principles in Landscape Design:
The American economy grew rapidly following the American Civil War, creating a new wealthy class. The expansion of railroads to scenic rural areas and an increase in leisure time of the affluent due to the Industrial Revolution allowed these newly rich Americans to establish country homes (often called “country places”) and suburban residences with extensive gardens. By the late nineteenth century, the naturalistic and picturesque styles were often embellished with overlays of ornate garden features in the gardensque style. A feature of the gardensque style was “carpet-beding” or “bedding-out.” Bedding scheme designs typically consisted of annuals and tropical plants chosen for their vivid colors and compactness or a strong vertical habit for accent. Beds were generally placed near the house to draw attention and provide a level of detail that connected nature and architecture. In addition, plantings were often supplemented by vertical features, including vases, urns, and spiky plants (CLR, 2010: 29; citing Denise Wiles Adams, “Restoring American Gardens: An Encyclopedia of Heirloom Ornamental Plants, 1640-1940,” pg. 162-163).

The Establishment of the Glenmont Estate:
The future site of the Glenmont Estate remained undeveloped until Henry C. Pedder, a confidential clerk at Arnold Constable and Company, a New York City department store, purchased a 10.47-acre parcel (Block 91, Lot 1) in 1879 from Mr. and Mrs. James M. Ward.
The property was situated at the intersection of Glen Avenue and Park Way. In 1881, Pedder increased his holdings with the purchase of an adjoining 3.07-acre parcel (Block 101.01, Lot 19) from David E. Green (CLR, 2010: 29-30).

In 1880, Pedder hired Henry Hudson Holly (1834-1892), a New York City architect, to design a new house at the cost of $200,000. As indicated in an early architectural rendering, Holly proposed a four-story Queen-Anne styled home that included many gables, expansive verandahs, a roof balustrade, and two tall chimneys. With the exception of the addition of the Den (or Billiards Room) and Drawing Room enlargement in 1884, the house was complete by 1882. It resembled the earlier drawing, except the rectangular verandah Holly proposed along the south side of the house was enlarged and rounded. This room was later referred to as the Conservatory. The house was sited on high ground to command long views of the surrounding countryside, and interior rooms were carefully laid out according to their exposure to the natural light (Figure 2) (CLR, 2010: 30).

During construction of the house and continuing for years afterward, Pedder made significant improvements to the surrounding landscape. Between 1880 and 1882, Pedder commissioned landscape architect Nathan Franklin Barrett to lay out the Glenmont grounds. Barrett later confirmed his involvement with the overall design in a letter, dated December 28, 1916, to Thomas Edison stating: “It may interest you to know that I laid out your place for H.C. Pedder in the early 1880s” (CLR, 2010: 30-32; citing Letter from N.F. Barrett to Thomas A. Edison, December 28, 1916, as quoted in Barbara A. Yocum, “The House at Glenmont, Historic Structure Report, Edison National Historic Site, West Orange, New Jersey, Volume I,” pg. 15).

Barrett’s design of the Glenmont grounds is documented in a series of images taken between 1881 and 1884, as well as an “1881 Atlas of the City of Newark, New Jersey,” and an 1882 map, created by engineers Mead and Taylor and entitled “Map of Residence and Grounds Belonging to H.C. Pedder Esq., Llewellyn Park, Orange, New Jersey 1882” (Figure 3). The images and maps reveal the idealized rural landscape of the naturalistic and picturesque styles, represented by winding drives and walks, expansive lawns, and groupings of trees, with the house as the focal point. The maps also include features typical of a country place or suburban residence, including service buildings, croquet lawn, and kitchen garden. As depicted on the “1881 Atlas of the City of Newark, New Jersey,” a large rectangular barn or stable is shown to have existed on the property in 1881, but by 1882 it was removed. Although not depicted in the 1881 or 1882 maps, a greenhouse complex was constructed in the 1880s—not part of Barrett’s design for the grounds, located on the 3.07-acre parcel, north Honeysuckle Avenue. By 1884, initial improvements to the Glenmont landscape were complete (CLR, 2010: 32).

The house was located in the northern portion of the property situated within an expansive manicured lawn, scattered with single specimen and clumps of trees and shrubs. On the northeast side of the house was the well house, hose house and a laundry yard, containing a pump house. To the west, was a croquet lawn bounded by curvilinear paths and perimeter plantings. Southeast of the house was a large oval lawn dotted with trees and shrubs. Beyond the oval lawn, was the south (lower) lawn pasture and service related functions, which included
a barn, chicken house and stable, and vegetable garden. East of the house and across Honeysuckle Avenue, was the greenhouse complex and flower garden (CLR, 2010: 34).

A series of curvilinear drives meandered through the grounds. Beginning at a “Y” intersection at Park Way—a Llewellyn Park Road, the main drive curved through the landscape and ended in an oval-shaped loop that passed beneath the porte cochere of the house. The width of the gravel drive was approximately ten feet and lined with flagstone curbing. Two secondary entrance drives, located near the laundry yard and carriage house, connected to the main drive by way of Honeysuckle Avenue, the service road that was built shortly after Henry Pedder purchased the Green property. As with the main drive, the secondary entrance drives were lined with flagstone curbing. The landscape included a network of sinuous walks and paths. Marked by a rectangular bluestone stoop on the west and set of steps to the south, the paths began at Park Way and meandered through the west and southwest portions of the property, eventually leading up to and around the house (CLR, 2010: 35).

Along with the drives and paths, underground utilities were located throughout the Glenmont landscape. Two cisterns, with underground piping, were located in the west and south lawns. Water was pumped from the well and cisterns into the northwestern portion of the cellar. Wastewater and sewage drained from the house to two cesspools on the west side of barn. Another two cisterns were located in the northeast corner of the barn with a cesspool draining southwest from the barn. Corresponding with the water system was a network of storm water drains found along the edges of the drives. An underground bell wire connected the house and outbuildings for communications and perhaps to the house doorbell and even the household staff communication system. Natural gas for lighting was conveyed via underground pipes, during which time two gas cast-iron lamp standards were installed near the entry drive, one along the main drive oval to the southeast, and one at the secondary drive near Honeysuckle Avenue. These were ornamented with a bas relief and helical vine motif (CLR, 2010: 34).

With the exception of the mature vegetation along the periphery of the property, the Glenmont grounds were largely open in character in the 1880s. Shortly after the completion of the house, trees and shrubs were planted to enhance the beauty of the grounds, frame views, and screen service areas. Based on early photographs, taken between 1884 and 1887, deciduous and evergreen trees (mostly maple, beech, ash, oak, Norway spruce, and white pine) were laid out along the paths and drives, while others were arranged in groups. Various evergreen and deciduous trees were planted around the service areas, intended to screen the less desirable views. Although uncertain, it is assumed that at this time, a hemlock hedge was planted along Honeysuckle Avenue. Single specimen trees, primarily located in the south and west lawns, were placed near the house and admired for their beauty. Specimen trees found on the property included a Nordmann’s fir, copper beech, weeping beech, weeping cherry, weeping spruce, paulownia, and Sargent weeping hemlock. In addition to the trees, the grounds were ornamented with evergreen and deciduous shrubs. The most prominent shrubs were rhododendrons, which were planted in naturalistic groupings along the perimeter of the property (CLR, 2010: 35).

Reflecting the popularity of the gardensque style, a series of oval, teardrop, quadrilateral, and
arabesque-shaped ornamental flower beds, was incorporated on the south and west sides of the house. The flowerbeds were planted in the “bedding-out” schemes with patterns of colorful flowering annuals of a consistent height to produce the effect of an oriental carpet. These beds may have included marigolds, alyssum, and impatiens. Additional informal flowerbeds, which included acanthus, daylilies, yucca, peonies, phlox, and begonias, were found along the walks and islands (Figure 4) (CLR, 2010: 35).

At the corner of Honeysuckle Avenue and Glen Avenue, east of the chicken house and cow barn, was a large four-square vegetable garden and small orchard, consisting of pear and apple trees. Border by a wooden post fence, the vegetable garden was encircled by a grapery and included a variety of vegetables. A peach tree was later planted at the center of the garden (CLR, 2010: 35).

Similar to other country places and suburban residences that were being constructed during this period, the Glenmont grounds were also designed for recreation. As shown in the 1882 Mead and Taylor map, a croquet lawn was sited within the west lawn. Although little is known of the croquet lawn, the area continued to be used for recreation during the Edison era, later serving as the location for a tennis court, a site for the summer house, and a playhouse nearby to the northwest (CLR, 2010: 36).

Figure 3. An 1882 Mead and Taylor map, entitled “Map of Residence and Grounds Belonging to H.C. Pedder Esq., Llewellyn Park, Orange, New Jersey 1882,” shows the configuration of the property in 1882 (Thomas Edison NHP Archives, 114424).

Figure 4. In this image, c.1884-1886, the original Pedder barn is seen in the background (right) as is the greenhouse complex (left). View looking northeast, shows the main drive bisecting the landscape (Thomas Edison NHP Archives).

ARNOLD CONSTABLE & COMPANY OWNERSHIP, 1884-1886

Henry Pedder and his wife lived at the Glenmont Estate until 1884 when it was found that he embezzled funds from his employer Arnold Constable & Company. The company took possession of the Glenmont Estate, which had been constructed with embezzled money, for the sum of $1 as part of a restitution settlement. In the transaction, the company acquired Glenmont’s acreage, the furnished dwelling, and outbuildings (CLR, 2010: 37).
In 1885, Thomas A. Edison was courting Mina Miller of Ohio whom Edison had met through a mutual friend, inventor Ezra Gilliland. In the autumn, Edison became preoccupied with the desire to purchase a home that was magnificent enough for his bride-to-be. Edison is said to have offered Mina a choice of a country home or city dwelling, to which Mina chose a country home. Soon after, Edison showed Mina the Pedder home in suburban West Orange with its numerous outbuildings and greenhouse complex, and the expansive landscape. He purchased the property the following year (CLR, 2010: 37).

THOMAS EDISON ERA, 1886-1931

Thomas Edison’s Purchase of the Glenmont Estate, 1886:
The Arnold Constable & Company held Pedder’s Queen Anne home for a year and five months before Edison purchased it in January of 1886. In a letter dated January 12, real estate broker, Edward P. Hamilton, described the Pedder home to Edison, noting that the property had cost $400,000 furnished but could be purchased for half that amount, either furnished or not. Unbeknownst to Hamilton, Edison had already signed a purchase-and-sale agreement with Arnold Constable & Company the day before, buying two parcels of land totaling 13.54 acres and including the house, barn, cow stable and chicken house, greenhouse complex, cultivated lawns, and gardens, for $125,000, in addition to all the home furnishings for a dollar. This was less than half of what the property was actually worth, which based on an 1885 letter from Henry Hudson Holly to J. Asch, was valued at $271,000 ($36,000 for the land and $235,000 on site improvements). Edison and Mina married in Akron, Ohio, on February 24, 1886 and moved into their new home in April. Edison purchased nearby land in 1887 and began construction of a laboratory complex. The Edison Laboratories were in operation by 1887, turning West Orange into a bustling center of industrial activity (CLR, 2010: 45-46).

Maintenance of the Glenmont Grounds, 1886-1900s:
After acquiring the property, Mina Edison assumed the lead role in the management and operation of the Glenmont Estate. At that time, she had the help of a cook, waitress, maid, laundress, governess, gardener, and grounds keeper. In those early years, property maintenance continued as it had prior to Edison ownership, including various cyclical tasks. While there is little record of what was planted during the 1880s, receipts from a variety of nurseries beginning in the 1890s show purchases of a wide assortment of shrubs, trees, annuals, perennials, vegetable seeds, and tropical plants for the greenhouses (CLR, 2010: 47).

Between 1886 and the early 1900s, the landscape surrounding the perimeter of house continued to reflect the picturesque and gardenesque style of landscape design, as evidenced in a series of images taken between 1886 and early 1900s. On the house, vines embowered the porte-cochere and conservatory. Beyond the house, the turf in the west and front lawn areas were kept at a short height, while the south (lower) lawn was maintained as pasture and meadow. Along the pathways near the house, flowerbeds were laid out in geometric shapes and planted in the typical “bedding-out” fashion and informal flowerbeds were found along the foundation of the house and within the main drive islands. In addition to the flowerbeds, urns planted with large tropical foliage plants were displayed along the main drive within the front lawn. Along with the flowerbeds and planted urns, the landscape included evergreen and
deciduous trees and shrubs. Some of the more notable trees and shrubs—as seen in the earlier images, included the weeping cherry, weeping beech, Norway maple, royal paulownia, and three dwarf Alberta spruces (Figure 5) (CLR, 2010: 48).

Some of the earliest improvements to the property included the installation of telephone service in 1886 and electrical wiring in 1887. The electrical wires were installed by the Noll Brothers of New York City and extended underground from the generating plant at the Edison Laboratories. Direct current electric power was first used in the house on December 23, 1887. In 1891, a new well, equipped with an electrical pump, was drilled to the north of the original well that same year. The original well house was later removed in 1899. Eventually the Glenmont Estate was connected to the municipal water lines being constructed by West Orange and Llewellyn Park in the late 1890s. Lastly, in 1902, a new cesspool was excavated about 100 feet from the former one, but the exact location is not known. The next year, a fire hydrant supplied by town water was installed between the north side of the house and Honeysuckle Avenue (CLR, 2010: 48; citing Barbara A. Yocum, “The House at Glenmont, Historic Structure Report, Edison National Historic Site, West Orange, New Jersey, Volume 1,” pg. 34).

Redesign of the Glenmont Grounds, 1907-1920:
In 1907 Mina Edison hired landscape gardener Ernest W. Bowditch (1850-1918) to prepare a series of plans for the redevelopment of the grounds. Following his August and October 1907 visits to the Glenmont Estate, Ernest Bowditch produced a topographical survey of the property, which identified specific trees. Soon after completion of the survey, Bowditch prepared an illustrated plan of the grounds, entitled “Estate of Thomas A. Edison, Llewellyn Park, Orange, N.J., Design for Grounds” (Figure 6). The plan, relying heavily on formal beds, symmetry, axes, and geometric shapes, cohesively integrated the undeveloped three-acre parcel, containing the greenhouse complex, into the earlier design by Nathan Franklin Barrett. Bowditch’s plan proposed simplifying the large oval drive and leaving only the small oval-shaped loop to the northeast side of the house. This area was complemented by a water feature with a small terrace, surfaced with terra cotta tiles. Bowditch’s plan also simplified the walkways along the south and west sides of the house. In an effort to move and unify service related elements away and to the east of the house, Bowditch refashioned Honeysuckle Avenue as a tree-lined allee, serving as the main axis with vegetable gardens, the garage, and the stable situated on either side (CLR, 2010: 49-50).

Near the house, Bowditch proposed an enclosed laundry yard surrounded by a service turn along the north elevation and a garden along the western elevation. Across Honeysuckle Avenue, south of the greenhouses, Bowditch proposed two flower gardens. The first was a formal garden with geometric shapes and a focal point at its center, and the other was without any predetermined design scheme. A small paddock area was planned for adjacent to the flower gardens and connected to the proposed stable. The stable and a garage, as well as a four-square kitchen garden, were sited on opposite sides of Honeysuckle Avenue. A tool shed and an additional garden for small fruit trees and vegetables were proposed on the farthest northeastern corner of the property. Lastly, Bowditch incorporated a “lodge” (a gatehouse) on the northwestern side of Honeysuckle’s juncture with Glen Avenue, making this the formal
entrance to the estate. In order to make the gatehouse effective and perhaps the property more secure, gates were suggested for many access points, including the two entrances onto the property (CLR, 2010: 50).

Following Bowditch’s completion of the overall estate plan for the Glenmont grounds in 1907, Mina requested that he prepare a series of design schematics in 1909 and 1910 for a flower garden that would complement the new Ante Room addition (now known as the Fern Room) and terrace and stairways, which was located along the southwest elevation of the house between the conservatory and den. The drawings (Plan Numbers. 2418-4- 2418-7), were in keeping with Neoclassical design, consisting of axes, focal points, garden ornamentation (vases, fountains, and bird baths), and geometric beds and walks. Plantings included dwarf box hedges, yews and cedars, and perennials and annuals in mixed flower beds (including peonies, asters, poppies, petunias, snapdragons, larkspur, roses, and Canterbury bells) (CLR, 2010: 52).

After four months of correspondence between Bowditch and Mrs. Edison regarding the proposed flower garden, Mina, displeased with the excessive paths and formality of the designs, had Bowditch prepare three additional plans for the garden (Plan Numbers 2418-10-2418-12). The drawings were simplified, with two plans featuring Neoclassical elements, while the third was more picturesque in approach (CLR, 2010: 37).

Despite the many plans and renderings prepared by Bowditch between 1907 and 1910 for the Glenmont grounds, the majority of his designs, such as the flower garden along the southwest elevation of the house, were likely never implemented within the landscape. However, Thomas and Mina Edison did follow the general concept of Bowditch’s 1907 design for the grounds, with regards to his land planning principles and the spatial organization of the property, specifically relocating and unifying service buildings and structures away from the house (CLR, 2010: 53).

Construction of the Concrete Buildings and Structures:
By the early 1900s, Edison was actively involved in the Portland cement business, in particular concrete houses. Edison, fascinated by the ability of concrete to be molded into highly durable products in a wide variety of shapes, began an endeavor to mold and pour an entire house in one operation – a single monolithic concrete structure. At that time, reinforced concrete was cast as individual components and then assembled into a building or structure. Edison proposed eliminating this step by simply pouring concrete into a large mold, with reinforcing rods in place. It was his belief that if the process could be mechanized and houses mass-produced, the final product could be made available at a low price, providing affordable housing for the working class (CLR, 2010: 53).

Between 1907 and 1908, around the same time Mina engaged Bowditch to prepare plans for the Glenmont landscape, Edison began to develop monolithic concrete buildings on the grounds. With assistance from Frank D. Lambie, owner of the New York Steel Form Company, Edison constructed a garage and a two-story concrete gardener’s cottage. As proposed in the 1907 Bowditch plan for the grounds, the garage was built east of the house along Honeysuckle Avenue and across from the Pedder barn, in the former location of Pedder’s L-shaped chicken
house/cow barn. The chicken house/cow barn was relocated across Honeysuckle Avenue, as Bowditch had recommended. Around the same time, within close proximity to the barn, a rectangular concrete pool was constructed, measuring approximately twenty-six feet by forty-five feet. It is unclear whether or not the pool was an Edison experiment with concrete construction (CLR, 2010: 54).

Following the site planning principles of the Bowditch plan, the Edisons had a new gardener’s cottage and potting shed built east of the house, across Honeysuckle Avenue, and in the same location as the previous greenhouse complex built by Henry Pedder. During construction of the gardener’s cottage and potting shed, Mina turned to Pierson U-Bar Company to design and construct new greenhouses to be attached to the new cottage and an existing north wing of an earlier greenhouse built by Pedder. The company’s design, similar to the layout Bowditch indicated, called for a U-shaped plan, with the main greenhouses in an east-west orientation that provided southern exposure, necessary to maximize sunlight. It is assumed that during this time, cold frames were also placed to the east of the north wing. By 1908, the gardener’s cottage, potting shed, and greenhouse complex were complete. Within the complex, the greenhouses were subdivided into various components, which included the palm house, the orchid house, the lean-to adjoining the palm house, the rose house, and the carnation house. In these structures, flowers and plants were cultivated for use on the grounds, gardens, and in the home (CLR, 2010: 55-56).

With completion of the greenhouse, gardener’s cottage and potting shed, and other improvements across Honeysuckle Avenue, Mina had Bobbink and Atkins, Nurserymen and Florists prepare cost estimates for screening around the barn and making repairs to the existing hemlock and privet hedges. According to the September 15, 1909 estimate, the firm suggested that the two hemlock hedges, leading from the barn to the road (presumably along the north side of the stone boundary wall) and along Honeysuckle Avenue, be replaced with new hemlocks; the barn be screened with Lombardy poplars, hemlocks, and white and Austrian pines; and the privet hedge beneath the large trees along Honeysuckle not be reestablished. The estimate also included general distribution of rhododendrons and white and Austrian pines throughout the Glenmont Estate. Although it is unclear, the work was presumably completed between 1910 and 1925 (CLR, 2010: 56).

Glenmont Grounds Simplified:

By 1914, the Edisons gradually began to simplify the landscape. These changes coincided with the increased maintenance requirements for the grounds, as well as the ensuing First World War. Carpet bedding and container plants were removed, followed by a few damaged trees in 1916 (Figure 7). Beginning in 1919 and continuing throughout the 1920s, general improvements were made to the house. During that time, designs were prepared for a proposed lodge gatehouse. Bowditch’s 1907 master plan recommended that the lodge, or gatehouse, be located at Glenmont’s entrance on Honeysuckle Avenue. However, no further evidence of a gatehouse is known, and the lodge was apparently never built. By 1920, the old Pedder barn was in disrepair and unused, prompting Mina to sell the building to Van Keuren and Son, Paving Contractors of Newark, New Jersey. Following its acquisition, Van Keuren and Son razed the barn, salvaging construction materials, such as lumber, tin, paper, lath, and slate (CLR, 2010:
Following the removal of carpet bedding and the Pedder barn, the grounds continued to be well maintained but with few new improvements. The house remained the focal point of the landscape surrounded by foundation plantings and groupings of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. The southern portion of the property continued to serve as pasture for the Edison cows, as well as the location for the vegetable garden and orchard (Figure 8). East of the house, the service buildings were intact. The chicken house and stable (referred to as the chicken house/cow barn) continued to house chickens and a horse and an additional pasture was located south of the building. Adjoining the gardener’s cottage, potting shed, and greenhouse, the extensive formal and informal flower gardens remained, including a few fruit trees. Although the pool remained intact, it no longer was used for recreation (CLR, 2010: 58).

Glenmont Landscape Improvements, 1920s:
Over the course of the next decade until Edison’s death in the fall of 1931, there were few changes within the Glenmont landscape. In 1920, Mina, an avid bird watcher, had a bird fountain designed and placed on the lawn near the house. The fountain was electrically wired to keep the water from freezing in winter. It was later moved from the lawn to the roof of the conservatory where it remained until it was removed in the 1940s. By 1925, the condition of the north wing of the greenhouse – an earlier section of greenhouse built by Pedder – had deteriorated and subsequently was removed, leaving only the brick foundation walls sheathed with concrete (CLR, 2010: 59).

Shipman Plans for Skating Pond and Grounds:
In the early 1920s, Mina contracted landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman (1869-1950) for assistance with plantings and garden changes within the grounds. At that time, Shipman had designed many gardens for friends and neighbors of the Edisons, such as the Franks, Colgate, and Ford families. In the ensuing years, Mina and Shipman collaborated on a variety of projects at the Glenmont Estate and Edison’s winter home in Fort Myers, Florida (CLR, 2010: 60).

In 1925, at the urging of her son Theodore Edison and his wife who were both skating enthusiasts, Mina contracted with Pentecost & Martin, Inc., Landscape Architects, and William Neill and Son, Landscape Engineers and Contractors, for the construction of a new skating pond and shack – a replacement of a previous pond built in the early 1900s – in the former location of the Pedder barn. While it is unclear of whether or not the skating shack was constructed, the skating pond was completed by 1926, but was poorly constructed and did not retain water as evidenced by a series of correspondences among George Pentecost, William Neill, and John V. Miller, Mina’s brother and assistant manager of the Glenmont Estate (CLR, 2010: 60).

Clearly disappointed, Mina turned to Shipman to redesign the skating pond in 1926. By October 1926, Shipman had prepared a conceptual plan, accompanied by two construction details for the pond (Figure 9). As shown in the plan and details, the organic shape of the pond and plumbing remained the same, but construction materials were changed as Shipman proposed the use of
brick and concrete for the walls and base. In addition, the documents proposed a new skating shack in a different location. Although estimates were prepared for Shipman’s proposal, it is unclear whether her design was ever implemented. Present day conditions resemble Pentecost and Martin’s 1925 plan (CLR, 2010: 61).

Soon after the pond was built, wild gardens were established within the same area, lining Honeysuckle Avenue. These gardens consisted of native woodland plants interspersed with irises and daffodils. By 1927, the family’s use of the Glenmont grounds went through a period of transition as it became less of a year-round home and more of a seasonal home. During this time, the Edisons spent more time at their winter retreat in Fort Myers, Florida, as Thomas Edison began working with long-time friend Henry Ford in the investigation of domestic sources of rubber. Mina later recalled, “Everything turned to rubber in the family. We talked rubber, thought rubber, dreamed rubber.” Despite not spending as much time at the Glenmont Estate, the house, service buildings, and grounds were still maintained at a high level. In 1929, exterior alterations were made to the cow barn. Changes to the exterior included the installation of an iron fence enclosing the chicken runs and a wooden rail fence for the cow area. Other notable changes within the grounds included improvements to the irrigation systems (CLR, 2010: 62).

Thomas A. Edison died on October 21, 1931, at age 84. At the time of his death, a schematic plan of the grounds was prepared as part of an appraisal for the property. The plan showed a square laundry yard about forty feet north of the house, and to the west of that yard was the hose house. The pump house was situated west of the hose house, approximately seventy feet north of the house. To the northwest of the house, about fifty feet away, was the summer house, and fifty-five feet to the north of that was the playhouse. The garage, cow barn, gardener’s cottage, potting shed, and greenhouse complex were extant in their 1908 locations—the garage on the south parcel of near Honeysuckle Avenue, and the cow barn, greenhouses and gardener’s cottage on the northern parcel (CLR, 2010: 62) (Figure 10) (see Drawing 1.1).
Figure 5. The ornamental beds c.1886-1890 were cut into the turf and planted with annuals. Other ornamental beds are seen through the porte cochere to the north and in front of that structure to the west (Thomas Edison NHP Archives, 12.420.10).
Figure 6. This plan, entitled “Design for Grounds,” shows the 1907 master plan for the Glenmont Estate by Ernest Bowditch with a number of changes to the landscape (Thomas Edison NHP Archives, 114486).
Figure 7. Taken in 1913, this image facing north shows a simplified but maturing landscape. Note the absence of the southwest path and carpet bedding (Thomas Edison NHP Archives, 12.420.32).
Figure 8. View of the south (lower lawn), c.1930s, used as pasture during Edison residency (Thomas Edison NHP Archives).
Figure 9. In this 1926 drawing, entitled “Suggested Treatment for Skating Pond,” Landscape Architect Ellen Shipman provided her vision for a skating pond west of the garage (Thomas Edison NHP Archives, 11495).
Figure 10. This map, "Glenmont, 'Estate of Thomas A. Edison, Llewellyn Park, West Orange, N.J.," was completed for a 1931 appraisal of the property. It locates the garage, barn, greenhouses, playhouse, and summerhouse (Thomas Edison NHP Archives).

MINA EDISON, 1931-1947

Subdivision of Llewellyn Park:
Due to the economic crisis of the Great Depression, demand for country estates and large-scale suburban residences diminished, and when the United States entered World War II in 1941 new residential construction ceased altogether. Similar to other developments throughout the region, many large estates within Llewellyn Park were subsequently subdivided. Within the park, the subdivision of land fell into two categories, estate dividing and lot splitting. Estate dividing consisted of razing the structures and dividing the property into numerous lots. Lot splitting was simply dividing the property to create two separate parcels. In this case, homes were generally not demolished. By the end of the 1940s and early 1950s, one-acre lots in Llewellyn Park grew by almost thirty-three percent and the majority of five- to ten-acre lots
were split into lots of one to five acres in size. The increased number of lots within the park led to more proprietors, new roads and infrastructure, and a mix of architectural styles. The Glenmont Estate was the only property in Llewellyn Park that was not subdivided (CLR, 2010: 69; citing Keith Spaulding Robbins, “A History of the Development of the First Planned American Suburban Community: Llewellyn Park, West Orange,” pgs. 110-130).

Renovations and Maintenance of Glenmont Grounds:
Four years after the death of Thomas Edison, Mina Edison married her childhood friend Everett Hughes. The two continued to reside at Glenmont, and in Fort Myers, Florida, for several months of the year, and traveled extensively. They remained married for five years until Hughes death in 1940. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Mina, as she had during Thomas Edison’s lifetime, continued to manage and make subtle changes to the Glenmont property. Within the house, a number of improvements were carried out, including renovations to the Den, Dining Room, West Bedroom, Conservatory, bathroom, and Sun Porch. There was also the construction of a new bathroom (CLR, 2010: 69-70; citing Barbara A. Yocum, “The House at Glenmont, Historic Structure Report, Edison National Historic Site, West Orange, New Jersey, Volume I,” pg. 63).

Similar to the care of the house, the Glenmont grounds were maintained with a particularly high level of attention to horticultural and maintenance details. Lawns were mown and flowerbeds were well tended. Receipts from the F.A. Bartlett Tree Experts and Bobbink and Atkins, Nurseriesmen and Florists, indicate that many trees and shrubs received cable bracing, pruning, and periodic feeding. While Mina made conscious efforts to preserve the character of the Glenmont landscape at the time of Thomas Edison’s death, she did make some changes beginning with the establishment of a rose garden in the west lawn between 1931 and 1935 and the redesign of the formal flower garden located near the greenhouse and gardener’s cottage in 1937. For the new garden, Mina turned to a series of earlier 1929 Ellen Shipman plans entitled, “Sketch Plan for Rearrangement of the Garden of Mrs. Thomas Edison”, for inspiration. In the plans, Shipman proposed a rectangular garden based on an axis that ran north to south. A slight change in elevation was addressed by a rustic dry-laid stone retaining wall with steps, which physically divided the garden into two spaces. The larger garden space, closest to the greenhouse, was structured by a series of grass walks that divided the rectangular area into approximately eight beds. A reflecting pool marked the central intersection. Beyond the stone retaining wall to the south, a smaller garden room included two square beds and a series of grass walks that terminated in a semi-circular loop at the far end with a pool at its center. The garden was furnished with a marble seat at the northern end of the main axis and a privet hedge bordered the driveway (Figure 11) (CLR, 2010: 70).

Although it is uncertain whether or not Shipman’s plans were implemented, Mina chose to include features that had been recommended in the plans: The garden was rectangular, incorporated axial grass paths, and was embellished by old-fashioned naturalized plantings and perennial borders that included peonies, hollyhocks, irises, achillea, larkspur, anthemis, and lilies. In addition, a rustic dry-laid stone retaining wall was constructed and a marble bench surrounded by arborvitaes was added (CLR, 2010: 71).
During the same year, Mina received four chestnut saplings from the Forestry Service in Pennsylvania. Three Chinese chestnuts were also planted near the swimming pool (now referred to as the concrete basin), and an American chestnut was placed in the front lawn (CLR, 2010: 71).

Between 1935 and 1940, a number of changes took place in the landscape. The planted islands within Glenmont’s main drive were altered based on a pattern of repeated damage caused by vehicles. Irises found in the triangular island, located at the southeastern end of the oval lawn area, were removed and replaced with rhododendrons (rhododendrons sp.) and yews (taxus sp.). The triangular island near the northeastern corner of the house was reshaped with rounded corners, and the geraniums were removed and later planted with begonias. Other changes to the landscape included the planting of rhododendrons along the perimeter of the laundry yard and the removal of the playhouse and summerhouse to the north of the house, and of the deutzias at the southern end of the oval lawn. The hemlock hedge along Honeysuckle Avenue was also replanted. Upon completion of these improvements, Mina commented in a 1940 letter to her son, Charles Edison, that “Glenmont looks so green and perfect.” The condition and extant features of the landscape were captured in an aerial photograph taken in 1940.

Sale of the Glenmont Estate, 1946:
On June 27, 1946, Mina sold the Glenmont Estate to Thomas A. Edison, Inc., the company founded by Thomas Edison in 1911. However, the sale stipulated “Glenmont and its contents...be preserved as a memorial to my dear husband and his work.” By this time, the company had taken control of all aspects of Edison’s business enterprises, including the Edison Laboratory Complex. Mina retained a life estate in the residential property until her death on August 24, 1947. At the time of the sale in 1946, a survey of the Glenmont Estate was completed by Williams and Collins for the New Jersey Realty Title Insurance Company. With exception to the loss of the summer house and playhouse, the survey documented that there were no significant changes to the layout and spatial organization of the landscape, specifically the placement of buildings, structures, and drives.
THOMAS A. EDISON, INC. OWNERSHIP, 1946-1959

Planning Glenmont’s Future:
After Mina Edison’s death on August 24, 1947, Thomas A. Edison, Inc. used the house as a site for receptions and later as a private museum. During this time while many large country estates in Llewellyn Park were being demolished and subdivided, planning efforts began to define the future use of the Glenmont property. Thomas A. Edison, Inc. and the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation proposed to transform the Edison Laboratories from an experimental facility into a research center. They also considered using the Glenmont Estate as the residence of the center’s president and as a place for scientific meetings. As part of their vision, various properties within Llewellyn Park were purchased with the intent to construct a private road connecting the Edison Laboratory Complex and Glenmont Estate, and to eliminate the use of Llewellyn Park roads by employees and visitors of the Glenmont Estate (CLR, 2010: 79).

Upon hearing of these plans and their potential to disrupt the character and atmosphere of Llewellyn Park, a meeting was held between the proprietors of Llewellyn Park and Charles Edison, president of Thomas A. Edison, Inc. Besides hearing of the proposed plans from Charles Edison, the meeting gave residents of the Park the opportunity to voice their opinions during the meeting. Visions presented for the future of Glenmont varied. For example, some residents suggested that the house be divided into apartments. When early attempts to find a new use for the property were unsuccessful, Glenmont’s future remained uncertain for years. Many began to consider the estate as a unique property that may have outgrown its usefulness (CLR, 2010: 81).

Figure 11. Landscape architect Ellen Shipmen provided a garden plan for the south side of the greenhouse complex in 1929. Her vision called for incorporating the existing rose arbor but creating a formal bed arrangement (Thomas Edison NHP Archives).
A Forgotten Landscape:
The 1946 ownership transfer of the Glenmont Estate to Thomas A. Edison, Inc. resulted in significant landscape changes. Prior to Mina’s death in 1947, Glenmont was maintained according to the standards that prevailed during Edison’s life. The condition of the landscape in 1947 is documented in photographs taken four days after Mina’s death. Under Thomas Edison, Inc.’s stewardship, improvements were made to the interior and exterior of the house, but the grounds were gradually simplified. An August 31, 1947 letter, described the management approach for Glenmont as “House to remain open on a reduced scale…and discontinue greenhouse, except living quarters for gardeners, cows and chickens, chauffeur and garage including living quarters, garden, all but one car, and laundry” (CLR, 2010: 81).

With exception of the planting of approximately twenty trees, the Glenmont Estate showed signs of reduced caretaking by the 1950s. A portion of east end of the greenhouse (once used for seedlings and chrysanthemums, constructed in the 1920s) began to deteriorate and eventually had to be removed. Within the west lawn, a portion of the historic paths became overgrown and sod-covered. With the exception of the flower garden located along the south elevation of the greenhouse, the majority of gardens found within the property fell into disuse (Figure 12). In addition, several of the fruit trees, located within the fruit garden and near the vegetable garden, were also removed due to age-related decline or disease. Areas for burning plant debris were soon established in the former vegetable garden and pasture (CLR, 2010: 82).

Glenmont Estate Memorialized, 1955:
Following unsuccessful efforts to find a new use for the Glenmont Estate, Charles Edison eventually turned his attention to seeing that the Glenmont Estate was formally preserved. On December 6, 1955, Glenmont was designated by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior as the “Edison Home National Historic Site.” A cooperative agreement between the federal government and Thomas A. Edison, Inc. was signed stating that Glenmont was to be preserved and administered “for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States.” While Thomas A. Edison, Inc. continued to own and maintain the property, it was made available for public use (CLR, 2010: 83; citing U.S. Department of the Interior, “The Master Plan: Edison National Historic Site” [National Park Service, 1969]).
Figure 12. This 1950s view of the flower gardens located along the south elevation of the greenhouse, gardener’s cottage and potting shed continues to be the only garden from the Edison era (Thomas Edison NHP Archives).

FEDERAL OWNERSHIP, 1959-2009

Llewellyn Park and Highway Construction: In addition to the continued subdivision of land within Llewellyn Park during the 1960s and 1970s, the greatest effect on the rural character and integrity of the park occurred with the construction of Interstate Highway 280, begun in 1960 and completed in 1973. Despite years of opposition by the proprietors of Llewellyn Park and the West Orange community, the eight-lane thoroughfare was eventually built through the western portion of the park, substantially reducing its overall acreage. While a tunnel through First Watchung Mountain was initially considered, a 120-foot cut through the mountain was chosen instead. As a consequence of the freeway, Llewellyn Park was adversely impacted by the obvious loss of land, the increased development along the Park’s boundaries, and the increased traffic noise that changed the rural character of the area (CLR, 2010: 89).

Park Legislation, 1959-2009: Following its designation as the “Edison Home National Historic Site” in 1955, the Glenmont property was donated to the federal government by the McGraw-Edison Company (formerly Thomas A. Edison, Inc.) on July 22, 1959. A ceremony to mark the formal transfer of ownership to the federal government was held outside the main entrance of the house at
Glenmont on August 3, 1959. On that day, a Memorandum of Agreement between the National Park Service and Trustees and the Committee of Managers of Llewellyn Park was executed relative to the management of the Glenmont Estate (CLR, 2010: 90).

On September 5, 1962, Edison Home National Historic Site and Edison Laboratory National Monument were combined and designated as the Edison National Historic Site. Forty-seven years later, as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11, Section 7110), Edison National Historic Site was re-designated as the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in March of 2009 (CLR, 2010: 90).

Planning and Developing the Glenmont Estate for Public Use:
Soon after the acquisition of the Glenmont Estate in 1959, the National Park Service began preparation of a master plan intending to guide further park development and operations. The initial priority at Glenmont was to inventory and assess the condition of its resources, as well as to immediately stabilize the buildings and landscape. As the park prepared for Glenmont’s opening on May 16, 1961, initial improvements were completed, including the installation of catch basins drains, and hydrants between 1960 and 1963. In 1961, the Essex Sign Company installed informational signs throughout the Glenmont landscape (CLR, 2010: 96).

As part of the master planning efforts, a General Development Plan was completed in 1962 to provide guidance for future development and use of the site. Besides identifying proposed uses for the buildings and structures on site, the plan recommended the restoration of the flower and vegetable gardens; stabilization of the concrete swimming pool; and acquisition of the adjacent Johnson-Tilney property for parking and a comfort station. At that time, visitors were directed to park along Honeysuckle Avenue or in a small parking area in a former pasture near the intersection of Glen and Honeysuckle avenues (CLR, 2010: 96).

Reinterment of Thomas and Mina Edison:
Early in the preparation of the General Development Plan, the Edison family asked that the remains of Thomas and Mina Edison be moved from Rosedale Cemetery. On October 30, 1962, the National Park Service obtained the approval of the Trustees and the Committee of Managers of Llewellyn Park for the reinterment with the understanding that there would be no other burials at the Glenmont Estate, either of members of the Edison family or other persons; the same stone ledgers would be used to mark the graves at the Glenmont Estate as at Rosedale Cemetery; the markers would be placed flush with the ground as at the cemetery; and no high standing monuments would be erected. A break in the hedge along Park Way, near the proposed reinterment site, would also be replanted, so the gravesite would not be obvious from Park Way itself (CLR, 2010: 96).

Accomplished without publicity, the reinterment of Thomas and Mina Edison at the Glenmont Estate was carried out on April 3, 1963. As shown in a 1963 plan, entitled “Landscape Treatment of Edison Gravesite,” produced by the National Park Service, the gravesite was sited on the west lawn within a large grouping of rhododendrons, laurels, and Japanese maples. The gravesite landscape, as constructed, incorporated rhododendrons and mountain laurels for screening, goldmoss stonecrop as groundcover, and a brick pad bordered by Japanese holly
Ilex creneta ‘Convexa’). The seating area and gravel walk proposed in the plan were never implemented. In 2003-2004, with funding from the Charles Edison Fund, the National Park Service contracted to make improvements to the gravesite. The work included the installation of a cedar decorative fence, an “oriental carpet” brick observation landing, the removal of the Japanese Holly hedge and goldmoss stonecrop groundcover, and the planting of pachysandra (Pachysandra terminalis), tree peonies (Paonia suffruticosa), and two ‘Sango Kaku’ Japanese maples (Acer palmatum ‘Sango Kaku’). In addition, two Yunoki-type stone lanterns were included as a backdrop. The stone lanterns were a gift from Japan in 1935 as an expression of the “Japanese people’s appreciation of Edison’s contribution to the welfare of mankind.” The lanterns were originally located at the laboratory, but were relocated to the gravesite by PreCon LogStrat, LLC in preparation for the reconstruction of Building 11 in 2003 (CLR, 2010: 97).

Rehabilitation of the Glenmont Landscape, 1960s-2009:

In addition to improvements to the exterior and interior to the Glenmont house, work was accomplished to the landscape throughout the 1960s. In 1963, the park began implementing some of the recommendations set forth in the General Development Plan for the restoration of the rose garden, located in the west lawn. The garden consisted of forty rose bushes, laid out in a concentric half circle. Later, on November 29, 1963, the McGraw-Edison Company donated the 2.13-acre Johnson-Tilney property to the north of the Glenmont house to the federal government (CLR, 2010: 98-99).

By the mid-1960s, many of the buildings and structures at Glenmont were deteriorating and needed repairs. In 1964, the hose house, the smallest building on the property, had to be reconstructed as it was beyond repair. Between 1964 and 1966, work began on the conservatory by restoring the rotted woodwork, replacing the roof, and installing a new lighting-protection system. While renovations to the house proceeded, repairs were made to the garage, gardener’s cottage and greenhouse, and pump house. Other work completed during this time period included the construction of antique garden furniture and repairs to the Edison grape arbors in 1964 and the reconstruction of the gazebo bird feeder in 1966 (CLR, 2010: 99).

Parallel to the work being carried out on the buildings, efforts began on the surrounding landscape. By the 1960s, many trees had approached the end of their life expectancy or were diseased and in need of removal. The majority of the declining trees were later replaced in-kind. While the Edisons typically had between three and four gardeners on staff throughout the year, on-site staff dwindled once the property transferred to the National Park Service. Because of the intensive maintenance that was required, additional paths and some flower beds were removed by the mid-1960s. Other features removed included the burning areas that were established between 1947 and 1959 and the toolshed, located near the barn (CLR, 2010: 100).

In 1966, the “Master Plan for Edison National Historic Site,” was completed (revised in 1977). As identified in the plan, Glenmont and the laboratory would be preserved and restored to the historic environment of c.1931 to the extent practicable. At Glenmont, the park would operate in a cooperative relationship between the National Park Service and proprietors of Llewellyn Park. Maintenance of the landscape would focus on the preservation of the buildings and structures, the surrounding expansive lawn areas, flower gardens, and plantings. Should trees
or shrubs become overgrown or fall victim to storm or disease, they were to be replanted in-kind. The concrete swimming pool basin would be stabilized, and the vegetable, flower gardens, and orchards, would be restored if financially feasible. While the majority of the walkways and drives at Glenmont were unchanged, some paths would be restored. Lastly, a path from the Edison Laboratories to the house would be developed along the same route that Thomas Edison walked during the historic period. With the exception of Charles Edison’s funeral in 1969, there was minimal activity within the Glenmont landscape in ensuring years. However, over the next four decades, the National Park Service implemented many of the recommendations that were proposed in the master plan (CLR, 2010: 100).

After the Glenmont Estate opened to the public in the 1960s, the most pressing issue for the park was visitor accessibility, particularly with buses not being allowed in Llewellyn Park. In 1971, the park proposed the development of a footpath from the visitor parking area (near the intersection of Main Street and Edisonia Terrace) to the east end of Honeysuckle Road, but the plan was later dismissed because of opposition from the proprietors of Llewellyn Park. Within the Tilney property, additional visitor accessibility issues were addressed, such as the removal of the house and ancillary structures in the mid-1970s and installation of a parking lot. An additional parking area for employees was later constructed in the vicinity of the barn, directly across from the garage (CLR, 2010: 100).

Despite National Park Service efforts to restore the rose garden in the 1960s, the shrubs struggled. The clay soil was never mitigated and drainage problems persisted. During a casual visit to the Glenmont Estate in the early 1980s, Ann Edison, Theodore Edison’s wife, suggested that the garden be removed. Shortly thereafter, the rose garden was eliminated. Between 1980 and 1985, a security system along with ground-level lighting was installed at Glenmont. The security system was later upgraded in 1992 (CLR, 2010: 101).

By the mid-1980s, the non-historic macadam driveways had deteriorated to the point of being hazardous, and the paths throughout the Glenmont landscape were overgrown and sod-covered. In 1985, the National Park Service had the grounds restored to its 1931 appearance. The work included re-establishing the walkways, garden paths, driveways, and flagstone curbing. While attempts were made to obtain the original stone, the South Orange Quarry from where it had been purchased had since closed. However, efforts were made to replicate the original stone mix. Later, Viola Construction Company was again used for improvements to Honeysuckle Avenue, including the reconstruction of the roadway with an aggregate base, asphalt pavement, stone paved waterway, and manhole adjustments (CLR, 2010: 101).

In 1992, Thomas Edison National Historical Park (formerly Edison National Historic Site) requested assistance from the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, a program of the National Park Service, Northeast Region, to complete a three-phased project which included, an interview with George Crothers, the head gardener at Glenmont; a scope of work for a cultural landscape report; and the preparation of a cultural landscape report. In addition to finishing the first two phases of the project, the Olmsted Center completed a Tree Preservation Maintenance Guide (1994) and Historic Plant Inventory (1995) (CLR, 2010: 102).
By 1999, the bluestone stoop in the west lawn was structurally unstable and had to be repaired, which included disassembling and resetting the stoop. Between 2002 and 2006, the Glenmont Estate was closed to the public for renovations. Work included installation of geothermal HVAC system within the house. For this project, a geothermal exchanger system, consisting of approximately twelve 300-foot deep bores, spaced at 15 foot intervals in two rows, had to be installed at the Tilney property. Underground pipes currently transport the looped system to the heat pumps located in the house. Additional work in the house included the installation of a fire detection and suppression systems. Besides work to the house, other improvements included exterior improvements to the barn, greenhouse, and gardener’s cottage and potting shed (CLR, 2010: 102).
Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:
Landscape characteristics identified for the 15.67-acre Glenmont Estate include spatial organization, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, small-scale features, and archeological sites. Many of these characteristics have associated with them features that contribute to the site’s overall historic setting significance and identity, as well as features that do not contribute or are undetermined.

The physical integrity of the Glenmont Estate is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1857-1931) with current conditions. Many of the landscape’s historic characteristics and features are still intact. The house—located in the northern portion of the property—remains situated within an expansive manicured lawn, scattered with single specimen and clumps of trees and shrubs. The spatial relationships between the main house and surrounding service related functions, local roads, and driveways and paths are intact. The property remains bounded by Park Way and Glen Avenue and the main and secondary drives—connected by cobblestone-lined Honeysuckle Avenue—continue to follow the same historic alignment within the landscape. While some pedestrian paths have been removed or abandoned over time, portions that remain are unchanged since the historic period. Extant historic buildings and structures include the Queen-Anne style house, gardener’s cottage, potting shed and greenhouse, garage, chicken house and cow barn. Smaller buildings and structures in the landscape include the pump house, hose house, skating pond site, concrete basin (pool), stone boundary wall, and hot bed foundation. The majority of ornamental plantings and vegetative features within the landscape remain intact, as well as the viewsheds, which includes the east view from the house and the main entrance drive view. There are also many small-scale features that currently exist in the landscape that date to the historic period including a bluestone stoop, gas light poles, utility structures, clothesline posts, and a remnant of a rustic fence.

Since the historic period, some landscape characteristics and features that once reflected the domestic use and rural ideal of the Edison family were removed. These features included paths in the west lawn and woodland, pastures and meadows, orchards, flower and vegetable gardens, vines on buildings and structures, and a summerhouse and playhouse. Additions to the landscape are primarily associated with National Park Service visitor facilities, which include parking areas, fireproof metal structure, benches and receptacles, and signs. Despite some changes in vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, and small-scale features, the Glenmont landscape retains overall integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

INTEGRITY

Location:
Situated on the southeastern slope of Orange Mountain (now West Orange), Llewellyn Park remains in the same location as it did when it was laid out in the mid-1850s. The park is still divided into four physiographic areas—the Ramble, Glen, Forest, and Hill; with the Glen encompassing some of the
largest and most historic houses, including Glenmont. Within the Glenmont Estate, the majority of features associated with Thomas Edison remain in their original locations and continue to evoke the naturalistic and picturesque design characteristics popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing. They include the house, hose house, pump house, garage, chicken house and cow barn, gardener’s cottage, potting shed and greenhouse, concrete basin (pool), drives and walks, flower gardens, and a variety of native and exotic trees and shrubs (CLR, 2010: 166).

Design:
Llewellyn Park and the Glenmont landscape continue to evoke the naturalistic and picturesque landscape design principles popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing. Within the park, the Ramble is still at the center of the residential development and continues to be the focal point for many properties. Surrounding the Ramble is a series of curvilinear roads and suburban houses laid out in irregular lot divisions. Other features include native and exotic trees and shrubs and rustic buildings and furnishings (CLR, 2010: 167).

At Glenmont, the rural landscape characteristics are still represented in the location of the house set within an expansive manicured lawn; curving drives and walks; trees and shrubs planted to enframe the house and enhance the beauty of the grounds, frame views, and screen service areas; and service related functions including a laundry yard, barn, garage, chicken house and cow barn, greenhouse complex and some remnant gardens (CLR, 2010: 167).

Setting:
Despite the increased number of lots and construction of Interstate 280 in the northern portion of Llewellyn Park, the picturesque setting, including the views and vistas, vegetation patterns, and circulation systems, of the park appears to have changed relatively little since the historic period (1857-1931). The relationship between the areas surrounding the Glenmont house, including the west, front, and south (lower) lawns, laundry yard, woodland, service areas, circulation systems, and the nearby features—garage, gardener’s cottage, potting shed and greenhouse, barn, hose house, pump house, and major circulation features—is still generally the same as when it was originally developed by Henry Pedder and Thomas and Mina Edison. Additions, removals, and changes have occurred to some of the buildings, paths, and vegetative features since the historic period, but overall have not diminished the site’s setting (CLR, 2010: 167).

Materials:
In the initial development of Llewellyn Park and the Glenmont Estate, natural materials were used to create a romantic effect that while contrived, did not appear overly designed. Within Llewellyn Park, these elements can be seen in the circulation systems, through the use of native stone for box culverts, curbing and headwalls, as well as in the embellishments, such as the rustic wooden bridges, furniture, and gazebos. Within the Glenmont landscape, flagstone curbing lines the main and secondary drives, cobblestone gutters are found along Honeysuckle Avenue, and many of the historic small-scale features that still exist are rustic, notably the rustic fencing, arbors, bird feeders (not including the gazebo bird feeder), and clothesline posts (CLR, 2010: 168).
While many buildings and structures have been rehabilitated, restored, or reconstructed within the Glenmont landscape, they all retain their original materials. Despite the loss of some vegetative materials since the historic period, the majority of vegetation is in intact and is either the original plant material, or similar to the historic species, in scale, type, and visual effect (CLR, 2010: 168).

Workmanship:
Within Llewellyn Park and Glenmont Estate, workmanship remains evident in the design of the buildings and structures and circulation systems, the planting and maintenance of vegetation, as well as the construction methods of the small-scale features. Many of the buildings and structures have been either restored or reconstructed. The majority of trees and shrubs have been maintained or replaced in-kind, and the main and secondary drives, as well as local roads still include flagstone curbing and cobblestone drainage swales. While many original small-scale features in Llewellyn Park have been lost or ruined over time, replaced features have been designed in the rustic style and fit well into the surrounding landscape. Many historic small-scale features at Glenmont are original and remain intact including the bluestone stoop, gas light poles, rustic wooden fence and arbors, and the clothesline posts. The gazebo bird feeder have been replaced since the historic period, but were rebuilt in-kind (CLR, 2010: 168).

Feeling:
During the historic period, Llewellyn Park, including the Glenmont landscape, was largely characterized by its rural and agrarian setting, as well as a quiet and peaceful atmosphere. While agricultural activities no longer exist today within the park and Glenmont, both continue to reflect the idealized rural landscape characteristics represented by sweeping lawns, curvilinear drives and walks, rustic embellishments, and groupings of trees and shrubs. Furthermore, the Glenmont Estate retains the features that addressed the contemporary domestic needs of a suburban residence, including the gardener’s cottage, potting shed and greenhouse, a chicken house and cow barn, hose house, and pump house (CLR, 2010: 168).

Association:
Although many residential properties in Llewellyn Park were subdivided following the historic period (1857-1931), the Glenmont Estate remains unaltered and continues to convey the original design intent for residential sites within the picturesque setting of Llewellyn Park. The majority of features within the landscape are linked to Thomas Edison and collectively embody distinct naturalistic and picturesque design characteristics that were prevalent in the nineteenth century (CLR, 2010: 169).

The section that follows presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding List of Classified Structures names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property’s National Register eligibility for the historic period (1857-1931), contributes to the property’s historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource.

**Landscape Characteristic:**

**Spatial Organization**

Historic Conditions (through 1931):
The Glenmont Estate is organized into seven spaces loosely defined by circulation systems and use: the west (back) lawn, front lawn, south (lower) lawn, laundry yard, woodland, service area, and Johnson-Tilney property (Figure 13).

West (back) Lawn.
As part of Nathan Barrett’s design for the Glenmont grounds, Henry Pedder constructed the west (back) lawn between 1879 and 1884. The space was bounded by perimeter plantings and a hemlock hedge along Honeysuckle Avenue, and included a network of sinuous walks and paths that meandered through scatterings of single specimens and groupings of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. Following completion of the house in 1880, a pump house was built in the northern portion of the space in c.1882. Typical of many country places and suburban properties being built at the time, a croquet lawn was sited within the west lawn. Although little is known of the croquet lawn, the area continued to be used for recreation purposes throughout the Edison era, later serving as the location for a tennis court, and site for the summer house and playhouse. Other changes to the west (back) lawn during the Edison period included the replanting of the hemlock hedges between 1910 and 1925 and the removal of a path that proceeded from the Conservatory to Park Way, southeast of the house (CLR, 2010: 174-175).

Front Lawn.
The front lawn encompassed the house and foundation plantings, as well as the oval lawn area encircled by the main drive. With exception to the foundation plantings, the space was largely open with scattered specimens along the perimeter of the oval lawn. During the Edison era (1886-1931), the oval lawn was partially enclosed with the planting of deutzias along the southern edge of the oval lawn and the establishment of evergreen and deciduous trees along the eastern edge of the oval lawn to screen the service related functions—the barn, chicken house and stable, and vegetable garden (CLR, 2010: 176).

South (lower) Lawn.
Located east of the house, and defined by the local roads and the main and secondary drives, the south (lower) lawn was largely open pasture—dotted with clumps of trees and shrubs—and contained service related functions, which included a chicken house and stable (now known as the chicken house and cow barn), a vegetable garden, and small orchard. During the Thomas Edison years (1886-1931), minor changes occurred within the space including the relocation of the chicken house and stable in c.1907-1908; and the construction of a garage (in the former location of the chicken house and stable) in 1908 (CLR, 2010: 178).

Woodland.
In the initial development of the Glenmont landscape between 1879 and 1884, the woodland area was created as part of Nathan Barrett’s overall design for the grounds. Bound by Honeysuckle Avenue to the north and the main and secondary drives to the south, east, and west, the interior of the space contained a barn, a large rectangular barn or stable—later removed c.1882, and many utility structures including cesspools, cisterns, a gas vault, and a gas cast iron lamp standard. During Thomas Edison’s era (1886-1931), the space was densely
planted with evergreen and deciduous vegetation. In 1920, the barn was removed; and in its former location, a skating pond was constructed c.1925-1926. It later was abandoned as it did not retain water. Soon after the pond was built, wild gardens were established based on the principles of British landscape gardener and author William Robinson (CLR, 2010: 178).

Laundry Yard.
The laundry yard contained clothesline posts and was used to dry laundry. In an effort to screen the less than desirable service area, evergreen trees and shrubs were planted along the perimeter. In 1904, a hose house was constructed within the space (CLR, 2010: 180).

Service Area.
Soon after Henry Pedder acquired the Glenmont Estate, he purchased an adjoining three acre parcel across Honeysuckle Avenue from David E. Green in 1881. There he constructed a greenhouse complex and flower garden. During the Thomas Edison era (1886-1931), efforts were made to further separate and unify service buildings and structures away from the house according to the 1907 plan prepared by Ernest Bowditch. Between 1907 and 1908, the spatial organization of the space changed with the addition of a new gardener’s cottage, potting shed and greenhouse, a swimming pool, tool shed, and chicken house and cow barn, which previously was located in the area now occupied by the garage. In later years, the Edisons created additional informal and formal flower gardens, planted fruit trees, established the north pasture and added an evergreen screen around the chicken house and cow barn (CLR, 2010: 180).

Post Historic and Existing Condition (since 1931):
West (back) Lawn.
During the 1930s, the summer house, playhouse, and additional paths were removed within the west (back) lawn and a rose garden was installed in the previous location of a tennis court. In the following years, several perimeter plantings were removed due to age-related decline or disease, as well as the rose garden and majority of paths. Currently, the west (back) lawn is defined by Park Way, Honeysuckle Avenue, the path along the perimeter of the house, and main and secondary drives. The interior is largely open with scatterings of specimen trees and mature perimeter plantings (oaks, maples, beech, and ash trees). It also includes the Edison gravesite, pump house, and numerous small-scale features (CLR, 2010: 174).

Front Lawn.
In the following decades, the oval lawn became more open with the loss of some specimen trees and the removal of the deutzias in the late 1930s. Currently, the foundation plantings are mature and the oval lawn area is open in character and consists of highly manicured turf bordered by deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs (CLR, 2010: 174).

South (lower) Lawn.
Following the deaths of Thomas and Mina Edison, Thomas A. Edison, Inc. minimally maintained the south (lower) lawn, eventually removing the vegetable garden and several fruit trees by 1959. Currently, the National Park Service maintains the former pasture as highly
manicured turf and when trees or shrubs succumb to age related decline or disease, they are replaced in-kind (CLR, 2010: 178).

Woodland.
Within the woodland area, an organically-shaped depression currently marks the former location of the skating pond, and the interior remains largely wooded consisting of evergreen and deciduous trees and remnants of the woodland garden, which fell into disuse following the death of Mina Edison. Although the space lacks buildings, it includes many utility structures as well as features associated with the former skating pond including rustic stone steps (CLR, 2010: 178).

Laundry Yard.
Between 1935 and 1940, Mina Edison planted rhododendrons around the perimeter of the laundry yard and a hemlock hedge along Honeysuckle Avenue. Similar to its historic appearance, the laundry yard remains bounded by secondary drives and perimeter evergreen plantings. The interior remains mostly open and contains a hose house and six original clothesline posts (CLR, 2010: 179).

Service Area.
After 1931, changes were made within the service area. Mina redesigned the formal flower garden located near the greenhouse and gardener’s cottage and added three Chinese chestnuts near the swimming pool. Under Thomas A. Edison, Inc.’s stewardship of the property between 1946 and 1959, the grounds were gradually simplified. The hot beds/cold frames and a portion of the east end of the greenhouse began to deteriorate and eventually had to be removed and the majority of gardens within the space fell into disuse. Since 1959, minimal changes have occurred within the space. Currently, the service area is defined by a stone boundary wall on the north, the gardener’s cottage, potting shed, and greenhouse driveway on the west, Honeysuckle Avenue on the south, and Glen Avenue to the east (CLR, 2010: 180).

Johnson-Tilney Property.
Prior to its acquisition by the National Park Service, the Johnson-Tilney property was privately owned land. On November 29, 1963, the McGraw-Edison Company donated the 2.13-acre parcel—located north of the Glenmont house—to the federal government. At the time of its transfer, the property contained a house and three ancillary structures. In the mid-1970s, as part of the master planning efforts, all buildings and structures on the property were removed and a visitor parking lot was installed. Today, the Johnson-Tilney property is scattered with trees and shrubs and contains the visitor parking area. There are no buildings and structures or small-scale features within the space (CLR, 2010: 181).

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**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**
Circulation

Historic Condition (through 1931):

Local Roads.

In the development of Llewellyn Park in the 1850s, approximately ten miles of sinuous roads encircled the ramble, the park’s common park. The perimeter of the ramble was defined by Park Way on the east, Tulip Avenue on the west, and Mountain Avenue on the north. Other roads that intersected the ramble included Forest Way, Glen Avenue, Wildwood Avenue, Oak Bend, Bloomfield Way, Linwood Way, and Long Branch. The undeveloped thirteen-acre site of Glenmont was bounded by Glen Avenue on the east and Park Way to the south—two of the earliest roads within the park. The roads in Llewellyn Park were originally dirt surfaced and included curbing and cobblestone guttering. Between 1867 and 1924, the roads were resurfaced in macadam asphalt. In the initial development of the Glenmont landscape, Henry Pedder constructed Honeysuckle Lane (later changed to Honeysuckle Avenue) as a service road in 1881-1882 (CLR, 2010: 182).

Driveways and Paths.

Upon completion of the Glenmont house in 1880, Henry Pedder had the main and secondary drives constructed according to Nathan Franklin Barrett’s design for the Glenmont grounds. Beginning at a “Y” intersection at Park Way, the main drive curved through the landscape in a naturalistic alignment and ended in oval-shaped loop that passed beneath the porte-cochere of the house. Two secondary entrance drives, located near the laundry yard and carriage house,
were connected to the main drive by way of Honeysuckle Avenue, the service road that was built shortly after Henry Pedder purchased the property. The drives were approximately ten feet wide lined with flagstone curbing and surfaced in crushed stone obtained from the South Orange Quarry. With exception to repairs in the early 1900s, minimal changes occurred to the drives until the 1920s when the removal of the Pedder barn necessitated the reduction of the drives around the site (CLR, 2010: 183-184).

Along with the drives, the landscape included a network of sinuous paths and walks. Marked by a rectangular bluestone stoop on the west and set of steps to the south, the paths began at Park Way and meandered through the west and southwest portions of the property, eventually leading up to and around the house. Additional paths were located within the service area across Honeysuckle Avenue. By 1914, the walking path that proceeded from the Conservatory to Park Way heading southeast was removed. Around the same time, paths located south of the greenhouse complex changed from curvilinear to straight walkways to create a rectangular formal flower garden (CLR, 2010: 184).

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
Local Roads.
Since the historic period the circulation patterns within Llewellyn Park has remained relatively unchanged. The roads are bituminous asphalt pavement of varying widths. Some roads do not have curbing or edge treatments, while others have various curb types, including four-foot lengths of granite, five-inch squares of granite or cobblestone gutters. Between 2001 and 2003, the National Park Service commissioned Viola Construction Company to make improvements to Honeysuckle Avenue, which included the reconstruction of the roadway with an aggregate base, asphalt pavement, stone paved waterway, and manhole adjustments (Figure 14) (CLR, 2010: 183).

Driveways and Paths.
The National Park Service had the drives surfaced in asphalt in 1962; and again 1975. In 1985, the drives were restored to their 1931 appearance. The work included re-establishing the walkways, garden paths, drives, and flagstone curbing. Currently, the main and secondary drives begin at Park Way where it branches into two legs that form two triangular islands before entering the front lawn. Upon entering the front lawn, it forms an approximate 220-foot diameter oval circle that passes beneath the house’s porte cochere. The first secondary drive that encircles the laundry yard intersects the north side of the circle, while the other secondary drive, connecting the garage to the main drive, intersects the circle on the east side. The drives measures approximately ten feet wide surfaced in crushed gravel and lined with flagstone edging. Drainage is provided by fourteen catch basins. The main drive is no longer used as the main entrance. Visitors generally access the Glenmont Estate via Honeysuckle Avenue (Figures 15 and 16) (CLR, 2010: 184-185).

Following the deaths of Thomas Edison in 1931 and his wife Mina in 1947, many historic paths were removed, including the paths within the west lawn. However, paths that remain intact
from the historic period include the walking path around the perimeter of the house and the paths within the service area across Honeysuckle Avenue (Figure 17) (CLR, 2010: 186).

Parking Areas.
After the Glenmont Estate opened to the public in the 1960s, the most pressing issue for the park was visitor accessibility. At that time, visitors to the site were directed to park along Honeysuckle Avenue or in a small parking area in a former pasture near the intersection of Glen and Honeysuckle Avenues. In the mid-1970s, parking issues were eventually addressed on the Tilney-Johnson property with the removal of the house and ancillary structures and the installation of a visitor parking lot. As part of the greenhouse rehabilitation in 2002-2003, a staging area was constructed next to the visitor parking lot, as well as an additional contractor parking area in the vicinity of the barn, directly across from the garage. Currently, the visitor parking lot, located on the Tilney-Johnson property, measures approximately 75 feet by 50 feet, is surfaced in bituminous asphalt and contains fifteen (one handicap) parking spaces. The contractor parking area, now used by both visitors and park employees, is a gravel-surfaced unmarked lot measuring approximately 60 feet by 18 feet, with room for approximately 6-7 vehicles (CLR, 2010: 186).

Items listed with an (*) in the table below are described in the National Register documentation.

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**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**
Figure 14. Pedder constructed Honeysuckle Lane (later changed to Honeysuckle Avenue) as a service road in c.1881-1882. During the Thomas Edison period, an allée was established along Honeysuckle Avenue (OCLP, 2009).
Figure 15. View looking southwest showing a portion of the main and secondary drives. Within the main and secondary drives, islands were embellished with ornamental flower beds. Many of the islands were simplified following the death of Mina Edison (OCLP).

Figure 16. View looking north showing the main drive. The main drive curves through the landscape in a naturalistic alignment and ends in oval-shaped loop that passes beneath the porte-cochere of the house (OCLP, 2009).
Vegetation

Historic Conditions (through 1931):
Prior to the development of the Glenmont Estate in the early 1880s, the property was largely open and consisted of mostly specimen trees along Park Way and Glen Avenue. Between 1880 and 1884, Henry Pedder transformed the character of vegetation on the Glenmont grounds through extensive ornamental plantings.

Vines on Buildings and Structures.
Vines were likely introduced to the Glenmont landscape in the mid to late 1880s following the construction of the buildings and structures. During that time, Dutchman’s pipe (Aristolochia elegans), Japanese creeper (Parthenocissus tricuspidata) common or English ivy (Hedra helix), honeysuckle (Lonicera sp.) trumpet vine (Campsis radicans), and wisteria (Wisteria sp.) were planted on the house, barn, and chicken house and cow stable (now chicken house and cow barn). By the early 1900s, vines were growing on the house’s porte-cochere, Conservatory, and along the south and west elevations. Following the construction of the garage, garden’s cottage, and potting shed, English ivy was planted to cover the walls of the buildings (CLR, 2010: 187-188).

Lawns, Pastures, and Meadows.
During the Henry Pedder (1879-1884) and Thomas Edison (1886-1931) years, the house and front lawn and west lawn (back lawn) areas were maintained as low, manicured lawn, while the south (lower) lawn and north pasture areas were maintained as meadow and pasture. While the types of grasses Pedder and Edison established within the front and west lawns are unknown, they were cut with a mechanical mower, and in the spring and fall were overseeded and enriched with fertilizers and manure. The pasture and meadow areas, tinted with daisies (Chrysanthemum sp.), black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia hirta), buttercups (Ranunculus sp.) and other wildflowers, were used as grazing areas for the cows and horses and cut for hay (CLR, 2010: 188).

Woodland Plantings (groundcover). Between 1886 and 1931, a wild garden was established within the woodland area. Largely influenced by the wild gardening concepts of William Robinson, the garden featured bulbs and wildflowers such as allium, anemone, artemisia, bleeding heart, Chinese heart, columbine, daffodil, daylily, erythronium, evening primrose, forget-me-not, foxglove, fritillary, goldenrod, hellebore, honesty, lily-of the valley, primrose, pulmonary, Queen Anne’s lace, scilla, snowdrop, Solomon’s seal, sweet woodruff, tulip, violet, and yarrow. Since the 1950s, dense shade from the evergreen and deciduous trees has contributed to the decline of the wild gardens (CLR, 2010: 189).

Deciduous and Evergreen Trees and Shrubs. In the development of Llewellyn Park in the 1850s, Llewellyn Haskell, with assistance from Alexander Jackson Davis and landscape architects Eugene Bauman and Howard Daniels, thoughtfully integrated native and exotic trees and shrubs into the natural landscape in an effort to create varied experiences throughout the park. Along the perimeter of the undeveloped future site of Glenmont—lining Park Way and Glen Avenue—a variety of overstory and understory trees and shrubs were planted, including oak, maple, beech, hickory, and rhododendrons. Between 1879 and 1884, Henry Pedder commissioned Nathan Franklin Barrett to lay out the undeveloped Glenmont landscape. Following the naturalistic gardening principles prescribed by Andrew Jackson Downing, trees and shrubs were planted to enhance the natural beauty of the grounds, frame views, and screen service areas. During the Thomas Edison period (1886-1931), the trees and shrubs grew to maturity and other trees and shrubs were added. By 1931, the landscape consisted of single specimens and groupings of trees; these included but were not limited to maple, beech, chestnut, linden, ash, oak, Norway spruce, white pine, Nordmann’s fir, copper beech, weeping beech, weeping cherry, weeping spruce, paulownia, Sargent weeping hemlock, hackberry, and sassafras. The most prominent shrubs were rhododendrons, which were planted in naturalistic groupings along the perimeter of the property (CLR, 2010: 190).

Remnant Orchard. In c.1882, Henry Pedder established an orchard along the south side of the extensive vegetable garden located east of the chicken house and cow stable (current location of the garage) in the south (lower) lawn. The orchard included apple and pear trees. Throughout the historic period
(1886-1931), the orchards were maintained (CLR, 2010: 191).

Foundation Plantings.
During the initial development of the Glenmont grounds in early 1880s, Henry Pedder incorporated a series of showy ornamental garden beds—consisting of mostly annuals, and a few deciduous shrubs along the south and west foundations of the Glenmont house. With exception to vines growing on the house and potted plants, the north and east sides of the house were devoid of vegetation. During the Thomas Edison era (1886-1931), additional evergreen shrubs were added around the foundation of the house, specifically along the east elevation and near the Conservatory (CLR, 2010: 191).

Flower and Vegetable Beds and Gardens.
Shortly after the completion of the house and service buildings, initial improvements were made to the surrounding landscape. Beginning in 1882, Henry Pedder added a series of oval, teardrop, arabesque-shaped ornamental flower beds. Established on the south and west sides of the house, the flowerbeds were planted in the “bedding-out” schemes with patterns of colorful flowering annuals including marigolds, alyssums, and impatiens. Additional informal flower beds, which included acanthus, daylilies, yucca, peonies, phlox, and begonias, were found along the walks and islands. Around the same time, a large four-square vegetable garden was created on the corner of Honeysuckle Avenue and Glen Avenue, and a flower (cutting) garden—encircled by a grape arbor—was established adjacent to the greenhouse complex across Honeysuckle Avenue. Formal and informal flower gardens were also established within the service area across Honeysuckle Avenue. Located near the gardener’s cottage, potting shed, and greenhouse, a formal flower garden was established. The garden began at the gardener’s cottage and extended to Honeysuckle Avenue. It featured oval, triangular, and round annual beds. Beyond the formal flower garden, a series of flower and fruit gardens were established throughout the service area, surrounding the gardener’s cottage and potting shed, greenhouse, and chicken house and cow barn. By 1914, the Edisons removed the carpet bedding and container plants (CLR, 2010: 193).

Honeysuckle Avenue Hemlock Hedge.
Although it is unclear, the hemlock hedge (Tsuga canadensis) along Honeysuckle Avenue was presumably first established between 1882 and 1886. Following the relocation of the chicken house and cow barn and construction of the greenhouse complex, Mina—apparently looking to improve screening of the service area—had the hedges replanted between 1910 and 1925 (CLR, 2010: 194).

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
Vines.
By the mid-1960s, the majority of the buildings and structures at Glenmont were deteriorated and needed repairs. With exception of the wisteria on the house’s porte-cochere, at that time many vines on buildings were removed for preservation purposes (CLR, 2010: 188).
Lawns, Pastures, and Meadows.
Shortly after Glenmont’s acquisition by Thomas A. Edison, Inc. in 1946, livestock were no longer part of the Glenmont landscape and the pasture and meadows were eventually maintained in similar manner as the lawn areas. In the 1980s, Head Gardener George Crothers wanted to maintain the area historically known as the north pasture area, located at the corner of Honeysuckle Avenue and Glen Avenue, as pasture by reducing the amount of mowing to twice a year; it was later met with firm opposition from Llewellyn Park residents. Currently, the National Park Service maintains all turf areas at a short height and uniform appearance (CLR, 2010: 188-189).

Woodland Plantings.
Since the historic period, all that remains of the woodland plantings, notably the wild gardens, are drifts of scilla, lily-of-the-valley, yellow trout lily, and daffodils. Indian pipes (Monotropa uniflora) can be seen in the early summer and ferns are found in the damp, wooded areas (CLR, 2010: 189).

Deciduous and Evergreen Trees and Shrubs.
Throughout the 1930s, the Glenmont grounds were maintained at a particularly high level as trees and shrubs received cable bracing, pruning, and periodic feeding. In 1937, three Chinese chestnuts were established near the swimming pool, and an American chestnut was placed in the front lawn. Other changes included the planting of a commemorative oak in 1940 as part of a two day festival honoring Thomas Edison. Since 1959, approximately 87 trees have been removed, but many were replanted by the National Park Service and continue to thrive in the landscape. As of 2009, approximately 100 trees have been planted since 1959 (Figure 18) (CLR, 2010: 190).

Remnant Orchard.
The orchards were maintained throughout the historic period, but by 1992 the majority of apple trees had to be replaced. A Chinese pearleaf crab apple tree is all that remains from the historic period (Figure 19) (CLR, 2010: 191).

Foundation Plantings.
The evergreen shrubs around the Conservatory were removed in the 1960s during the renovations to the Conservatory and later replaced in the 1970s. In 2008-2009, a group of students from the Master Gardeners of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County program installed a new flower bed along the house’s west foundation. Work included pruning historic rose bushes and reestablishing historic plant material, which included giant cannas and buddleia (CLR, 2010: 191).

Flower and Vegetable Beds and Gardens.
In 1937, Mina chose to include features that had been suggested in an earlier 1929 Ellen Shipman plan entitled, “Sketch Plan for Rearrangement of the Garden of Mrs. Thomas Edison.” The new garden was rectangular, incorporated axial grass paths, and was
embellished by old-fashioned naturalized plantings and perennial borders that included peonies, hollyhocks, irises, achillea, larkspur, anthemis, and lilies. In addition, a rustic dry-laid stone retaining wall was constructed, a marble bench surrounded by arborvitaes was added, and an additional rose arbor was built. Following the death of Mina Edison, the vegetable garden and majority of the flower gardens, fruit trees, were removed (Figure 20) (CLR, 2010: 193).

Honeysuckle Avenue Hemlock Hedge.
Following the historic period, the hemlocks were left unclipped and allowed to mature into trees. All that remains today is a flower garden located adjacent to the gardener’s cottage and potting shed and a linear flower bed—planted with peonies and hosta (hosta sp.), along Honeysuckle Avenue. The row of hemlocks are roughly thirty feet in height and approximately 900 linear feet (entire length of Honeysuckle Avenue). In recent years, the dense shade from the hemlocks and American linden trees has been responsible for the decline of historic plant material within the service area and along Honeysuckle Avenue, specifically the privet hedges (Ligustrum sp.) (CLR, 2010: 194).

Johnson-Tilney Trees and Shrub.
On November 29, 1963, the McGraw-Edison Company donated the 2.13-acre Johnson-Tilney property—located north of the Glenmont house—to the federal government. At the time of its acquisition, the landscape consisted of a diverse mix of deciduous and evergreen trees (varying in age). In recent years, the National Park Service has maintained the existing vegetation, while using the property as a nursery for future plantings at Glenmont [For further information on the vegetation at Glenmont, see the existing condition plans, located at the end of the Existing Conditions chapter of this cultural landscape report.] (CLR, 2010: 194).

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Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  

Feature: Johnson-Tilney Trees and Shrubs  
Feature Identification Number: 152003  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing  

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

![Landscape Characteristic Graphics]

Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
Page 84 of 111
Figure 18. View looking north towards the weeping beech (Fagus sylvatica ‘Pendula’), weeping cherry (Prunus subhirtella) and dissected leaf Japanese maple (Acer palmatum “Atropurpurem Dissectum”) in the west lawn (OCLP, 2009).

Figure 19. View looking northeast towards the remnant orchard. Currently, there are four apple trees of different varieties (Chinese pearleaf crab apple, ‘northwest greening’ apple, and ‘summer rambo’ apple) (OCLP, 2009).

Figure 20. In 1937, Mina directed the redesign of the formal flower garden following the general concept of an earlier 1929 Ellen Shipman plan (OCLP, 2009).
Building and Structures

Historic Conditions (through 1931):
Glenmont (house).
The Glenmont House was built between 1880 and 1882, following the plans of prominent New York architect Henry Hudson Holly for Henry and Louisa Pedder. The three-story multi-gabled Queen-Anne style mansion was constructed of stone, brick, and stick and shingle design, and included an attic, basement, and contained twenty-nine rooms. The roof was slate with eight paneled brick chimneys. Features of the house included a porte cochere, two narrow verandahs on either side of the porte cochere, a Conservatory on the south side of the house, and a small verandah on the north side. A dining room “den” was located along the west elevation, but was incomplete when Thomas Edison purchased the house in 1886. It was later finished between 1886 and 1891 (CLR, 2010: 196).

Following its acquisition by the Edison family, a series of improvements were made to the house between 1886 and 1890, which included the installation of telephones and a burglar-alarm system, supplementing the existing gas-lighting system with electric lighting, and repainting the house (exterior wood work was painted gray, repainted brick red c.1905-1910). In 1899, upgrades were made to the electrical and plumbing systems and many rooms were remodeled. The first decade of the new century was prosperous for Thomas Edison, which was largely attributed to financial success of his motion-picture machines and films. As a result, between 1900 and 1915 many improvements were made to the house including remodeling of the dining room, improving the plumbing and heating systems, enlarging bedrooms, adding bathrooms, enlargement of the living room over the porte-cochere, and constructing a small room, now known as the “fern room.” Minor general improvements such as painting, plumbing, and carpentry work were made throughout the 1920s and early 1930s. [For further information, refer to The House at Glenmont, Home of Thomas Edison, Edison National Historic Site, Vols. I and II. Lowell, MA: National Park Service; written 1995, published 1998.] (CLR, 2010: 196).

Gardener’s Cottage and Potting Shed.
The gardener’s cottage and potting shed is one of the earliest examples of monolithic concrete construction developed by Thomas Edison. The two-story structure was erected in 1908, northeast of the house and across Honeysuckle Avenue, on the site of an earlier structure built by Henry Pedder. The concrete exterior of the gardener’s cottage was finished with a smooth surface on the first floor and roughly textured on the second. It also included a flat roof, ornamented parapet, and modillion cornice. During the historic period, the first floor was used as storage for the gardening tools and equipment, while the second floor served as the gardener’s living quarters (CLR, 2010: 197).

Greenhouse.
In the 1880s, a greenhouse complex was constructed by Henry Pedder on the north side of Honeysuckle Avenue (service area space). In c.1907-1908, Mina Edison had the Pierson U-Bar Company design and build a new greenhouse attached to the new gardener’s cottage and existing north wing of the earlier greenhouse built by Pedder. The greenhouse’s design, similar to the layout Ernest Bowditch indicated in his plan for the grounds, called for a
U-shaped plan, with the main structure in an east-west orientation. The greenhouse was divided into various houses: the palm house, originally used to grow plants for the Glenmont house Conservatory; the orchid house (indicated as fern house in the original specifications), used for growing tropical plants, such as orchids, that required special heat and humidity; the lean-to adjoining the palm house, used mostly for growing poinsettias that were placed in the house during the holidays; the rose house, used for growing many types of roses; a carnation house, used to grow carnations and other cut flowers for decorating the Edison house; and a propagation house—placed as a partition between the earlier Pedder greenhouse and orchid house, used for the propagation of seeds in the springtime and for chrysanthemums in the fall. By the 1920s, the condition of the north wing of the greenhouse—an earlier section of the greenhouse built by Pedder—had deteriorated and had to be replaced (CLR, 2010: 198).

Garage.
The garage is also an early example of monolithic concrete construction developed by Thomas Edison. The two-story structure was erected in 1908, east of the house along Honeysuckle Avenue, and in the former location of Pedder’s L-shaped chicken house and cow barn. The concrete exterior of the garage was elaborately ornamented, with a flat roof and parapet, an overhanging cornice, corners defined by pilasters on both first and second stories, and the windows contained a system of triangular lights in the upper sash. During the historic period, the garage—heavily covered with vines—housed the family automobiles, which were moved to their assigned places with the aid of a circular turn-table set into the floor. The upper floor originally consisted of eight rooms and a bath for a chauffeur’s quarters (CLR, 2010: 199).

Chicken House and Cow Barn.
The Victorian style chicken house and cow barn, known as the chicken house and stable prior to the 1920s, was built between 1880 and 1882, east of the house along Honeysuckle Avenue. The L-shaped wood frame structure was one story high with a loft over the main portion. The exterior was sheathed in wood shingles and had a slate covered roof, while the interior included a chicken house, pony stable, feed room, and cow stable. During the historic period, the Edisons housed chickens, cows, and a pony within the barn. In c.1907-1908, Thomas and Mina Edison relocated the chicken house and cow barn across Honeysuckle Avenue, according to the 1907 plan by Ernest Bowditch. A new garage was later constructed on the site in 1908. In the 1920s, a new calf shed was added to the barn (CLR, 2010: 199-200).

Pump House.
Following the construction of the Glenmont house in c.1880, a number of utilitarian buildings and structures were constructed for potable water supply. Initially, a well house was built near the north side of the house, but was later replaced between 1882 and 1884 with a pump house. Similar in Victorian architectural design and construction as the house, the pump house was a small wooden structure with a cross gable roof set on a fieldstone and mortar foundation. Shortly after acquiring the property in 1886, Thomas Edison installed an electric motor in the pump house, eliminating the need to draw drinking water by hand. Besides supplying water to the house, the pump house also furnished water for other uses, such as the animals in the
chicken house and cow barn, and for the gardener’s cottage, potting shed, and greenhouse. Likewise, in 1925, the pump house provided water to fill the ice skating pond.

Hose House.
In conjunction with the installation of a new water line and hydrant for fire protection in the early 1900s, a small wood-frame hose house was constructed in 1904. Situated within the laundry yard, the hose house was used to house a fire-hose cart. Minimal changes to the building occurred during the historic period (CLR, 2010: 200-201).

Skating Pond Site.
In 1925, Mina Edison hired Pentecost & Martin, Inc., Landscape Architects, and William Neill and Son, Landscape Engineers and Contractors, to construct a new skating pond and shack—a replacement of a previous pond built in the early 1900s—in the former location of the Pedder barn. By 1926, the skating pond was completed, but was poorly constructed and did not retain water. It is unclear as to whether or not the skating shack was ever built. Disappointed with the outcome, Mina Edison turned to Ellen Shipman to redesign the skating pond. Shipman’s plan retained the organic shape of the pond and associated plumbing systems, but proposed the use of brick and concrete for the walls and base. Although estimates were prepared for her proposal, it is assumed that her design was never implemented as present-day conditions resemble the original Pentecost and Martin 1925 plan (CLR, 2010: 201).

Concrete Basin (pool).
Around the time Thomas Edison began experimenting with concrete buildings on the grounds, a concrete swimming pool was constructed in c.1907. The pool was located east of the house across Honeysuckle Avenue. The rectangular concrete basin was approximately twenty feet in width and fifty feet in length. By 1920, however, the pool was no longer used for recreation.

Stone Boundary Wall.
The stone boundary wall, located along the northern boundary of the service area across Honeysuckle Avenue, was constructed c.1908 when several improvements to the grounds were underway, notably the construction of the garage, gardener’s cottage and potting shed, and swimming pool, and the relocation of the chicken house and cow barn. It was added to in the 1920s following the removal of the Pedder barn (CLR, 2010: 202-203).

Hotbed Foundation.
Between 1882 and 1884, Henry Pedder constructed a greenhouse complex on the 3.07-acre parcel (now referred to as the service area), north of Honeysuckle Avenue. Around this time, adjoining the east side of the greenhouse, a hotbed (or cold frame) was constructed. The hot bed (or cold frame) was approximately 42’ long by 2’ high and comprised of mortared bricks sheathed in concrete and probably used for ornamental horticulture. During the construction of the new greenhouse in 1908, an additional hotbed (or cold frame) was constructed immediately north of the earlier hotbed. It measured 42’ long and 1’ high and was built of similar materials as the earlier structure. Both structures were positioned in an east-west orientation to
maximize sunlight. Following the property’s acquisition by the National Park Service in 1959, the hotbeds (or cold frames) fell into disuse and eventually deteriorated resulting in the removal of the 1908 (northerly) hotbed. Currently, remnants of the earlier (southerly) hotbed foundation are all that remains (CLR, 2010: 203).

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
Glenmont (house).
Following the death of Thomas Edison in 1931, Mina Edison continued to live at the Glenmont Estate until her death in 1947. During that time, several improvements were made to the house. A new bathroom was built in the second story off the east bedroom and the Conservatory was repainted and its floor repaired. Thomas A. Edison, Inc. purchased Glenmont from Mina in 1946 (Mina obtained a life estate). After Mina’s death, the house was used by Thomas A. Edison, Inc., as a site for receptions, and later as a limited-use museum. During this time, the exterior and some interior rooms were repainted, the chimneys repointed, and roof repairs were carried out. Glenmont was donated to the federal government by the McGraw-Edison Company (the successor to Thomas A. Edison, Inc.) on July 22, 1959. The contents of the building, including the furniture, were also donated at that time. Beginning in 1965, the National Park Service restored the Conservatory, repaired the slate roof, and renovated the heating and electrical systems. In the 1970s, deteriorated areas of the foundation walls were repaired and the exterior brick was repointed, a new fire-protection system was installed, and the exterior of the house was repainted. Between 1980 and 1990, a security system was installed. The security system was upgraded in 1992. In addition roof repairs were made in 1990. Currently, two stories of the house are open to the public, while the third floor serves as storage space (see Figure 16). [For further information, see “Historic Structure Report for the House at Glenmont,” National Park Service, 1998.] (CLR, 2010: 196).

Gardener’s Cottage and Potting Shed.
While minor repairs were made to the gardener’s cottage and potting shed in the 1960s, it was not until 2003 that it received a complete rehabilitation. Work included but was not limited to repairing the roof, spalled concrete, window frames, chimney, and repainting the exterior. Currently, the first floor of the building is used as exhibit space, workshop, and storage for some gardening tools and equipment. In addition, it accommodates a small National Park Service gift store (Figure 21) (CLR, 2010: 197).

Greenhouse.
Following the death of Mina Edison in 1946, the Glenmont grounds showed signs of physical decline and many buildings were no longer used, such as the greenhouse. Furthermore, a portion of the east side of the greenhouse—constructed in the 1920s—began to deteriorate and eventually had to be removed in 1950. Following the property’s acquisition by the National Park Service, the greenhouse was repaired in the 1960s and eventually rehabilitated in 2003 (CLR, 2010: 198).

Garage.
In the 1960s, the garage—like so many other buildings and structures at the Glenmont Estate—had deteriorated and needed repairs. In the mid-1980s and early 1990s, a new furnace was installed and the roof replaced. It was during this time that vines, covering the building, were removed. Today, the first floor of the garage is used as exhibit space, while the second-floor serves is used for storage and meeting space. The concrete exterior of the garage remains similar to its historic appearance (Figure 22) (CLR, 2010: 199).

Chicken House and Cow Barn.
Following the property’s acquisition by the National Park Service in 1959, a series of improvements were made to the barn, beginning with the replacement of the slate roof in the mid-1980s. In 2003, the barn was rehabilitated and included repairing shingles, flashing, trim, and repainting the exterior. Currently, the chicken house and cow barn is used to store artifacts and grounds maintenance equipment. The exterior of the barn remains similar to its historic appearance (Figure 23) (CLR, 2010: 199).

Pump House.
By 1950, the pump house and well were discontinued. Following the property’s acquisition by the National Park Service in 1964, the pump house was repaired and restored. Today, the pump house stands in its original location adjacent to the laundry yard and remains similar in appearance to the historic period (1857-1931) (Figure 24) (CLR, 2010: 200).

Hose House.
By 1950, the hose house had deteriorated and became overgrown with shrubbery. Despite efforts by Thomas A. Edison, Inc. to repair the pump house, the building was beyond repair and subsequently had to be reconstructed in 1964. During that year the hose house, which was moved in 1951, was returned to its original location within the laundry yard. Currently, the hose house is the smallest building at Glenmont measuring 4’8” x 6’-3”, with a shed roof and one board and batten door (CLR, 2010: 201).

Skating Pond Site.
The skating pond site is currently situated along Honeysuckle Avenue in the former location of the Pedder barn (removed in 1920). All that remains of the skating pond, is a roughly 90’ x 75’ organically-shaped earthen depression lined with stone, rustic dry-laid stone steps, and associated plumbing systems (Figure 25) (CLR, 2010: 201-202).

Concrete Basin (pool).
In the mid-1970s, the National Park Service filled in the pool with swamp mud from Morris County, leaving the tops of the concrete sides exposed. The structure was later stabilized in 2003. The rectangular concrete basin is approximately 26’x45’ (CLR, 2010: 202).

Stone Boundary Wall.
As part of the renovations carried out by the National Park Service in 2002-2003, the stone boundary wall was repaired and preserved. Currently, the wall is an approximately three foot
high loose-laid, rubble wall comprised of brownstone, bluestone, bricks, and concrete chunks.

Fireproof Metal Structure.
Between 2006 and 2010, a fireproof metal structure was installed near the visitor parking area. The rectangular structure is currently used for storing maintenance equipment (CLR, 2010: 201-202).

Garden Retaining Wall
In 1937, the rustic dry-laid retaining wall—located near the gardener’s cottage, potting shed, and greenhouse—was built as part of the redesigned flower garden based on the general concept of an earlier 1929 Ellen Shipman plan entitled, “Sketch Plan for Rearrangement of the Garden of Mrs. Thomas Edison.” At the time of its construction, the wall was built over an early cistern, which required the use of iron bars for stability and support. In recent years, the bars have rusted causing the wall to fail in certain areas, specifically in the location of the stone steps. Resting atop the 40’x 2’ wall is a manicured yew hedge (CLR, 2010: 204).

Items listed with an (*) in the table below are described in the National Register documentation. An evaluation of the garden retaining wall remains undetermined until further research on Ellen Shipman’s involvement with the perennial garden is conducted.

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IDLCS Number: 269
Feature: Hose House, No. 18 *
Feature Identification Number: 151863
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

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Feature: Skating Pond Site
Feature Identification Number: 152099
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

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Feature: Concrete Basin (pool)
Feature Identification Number: 152101
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Feature: Stone Boundary Wall
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Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 273
Feature: Hot Bed Foundation
Feature Identification Number: 152105
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

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**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

Figure 21. View looking north towards the gardener’s cottage, potting shed, and greenhouse. The cottage and shed, built in c.1908, is one of the earliest examples of monolithic concrete construction developed by Thomas Edison (OCLP, 2009).
Figure 22. View looking north towards the garage, constructed between 1907 and 1908. (OCLP, 2009).

Figure 23. View looking northeast showing the chicken house and cow barn. The Victorian style chicken house and cow barn, built between 1880 and 1882, is east of the house along Honeysuckle Avenue (OCLP, 2009).
Figure 24. Similar in Victorian architectural design and construction as the house, the pump house built between 1882 and 1884, is a small wooden structure with a cross gable roof set on a fieldstone and mortar foundation (OCLP, 2009).
Figure 25. View looking east towards the skating pond site, currently situated within the woodland space along Honeysuckle Avenue in the former location of the Pedder barn—removed in 1920 (OCLP, 2009).

Views and Vistas

Historic Conditions (through 1931):
The open spatial character and position of the grounds on an elevated terrace, historically allowed for expansive views to the east towards Glen Avenue. In the initial development of the grounds between 1880 and 1882, Henry Pedder and Nathan Barrett took advantage of these views in the layout and organization of the Glenmont landscape. In particular, the house was located on high ground (northern portion of the property) within an expansive manicured lawn, allowing for uninterrupted views to the east and Glen Avenue. In the following years, Thomas and Mina Edison maintained the open character of the front and lower lawn and retained the views.

The layout and alignment of the main entrance drive was—and still remains—an important element of Nathan Barrett’s design for the Glenmont Estate as it contributed to a visitor’s first impression of the landscape. As designed, the main entrance drive threaded through a scattering of trees before entering an open lawn area dominated by the first view of the house at a slight angle to display the architectural beauty and prominence within the grounds. During the Edison years, the layout and alignment of the main entrance drive remained the same and the views of the house were retained (CLR, 2010:205).

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
The view east from the house encompasses the front and south (lower) lawn, scatterings of specimen trees, a remnant orchard, and Glen Avenue. Although visitors to the park no longer enter from the main entrance drive, views from the drive of the house have remained similar to the historic period. In recent years, however, trees along the main entrance drive have been removed due to age-related decline or wind damage. In time, the loss of trees may adversely impact Barrett’s original design intent for the main drive and the views associated with a visitor’s first experience of the house (CLR, 2010: 205-206).

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Small Scale Features

Historic Conditions (through 1931):
Misc. Utility Structures (including gas light poles).
In the initial development of Llewellyn Park, infrastructure was primarily associated with stormwater runoff. Designed for both aesthetic and utilitarian purposes, the Ramble served as the main stormwater management system, containing series of ponds that functioned in the retention and detention of stormwater runoff. Along with the Ramble, a network of sub-surface drainage features were built throughout the park including cobblestone gutters and curbs, stone box culverts, and pipe culverts with stone headwalls. By the 1890s, a series of gas lamp posts were installed along the roadways; two gas lamp posts were found on the Glenmont property. Parallel to the construction of water mains by the Town of West Orange in the early 1890s, six water lines were built within the park between 1891 and 1894. Around the same time, telephone lines were installed throughout the park (CLR, 2010: 208).

Between 1880 and 1882, Henry Pedder constructed underground utilities at an early stage in the development of the Glenmont property. Cisterns were built within the west and south lawns and in the northeast corner of the barn (currently the skating pond site). Water was pumped from a well and cisterns into the northwest portion of the house cellar. Wastewater and sewage drained from the house to two cesspools on the west side of the barn, while sewage from the barn drained to a cesspool located in the south (lower) lawn area. Corresponding with the water system, a network of storm water drains were built along the edges of the drives. Henry Pedder also installed underground equipment and gas lines to provide gas lamps along the southeast side of the main drive oval and at the secondary drive near Honeysuckle Avenue. During the Thomas Edison period (1886-1931), Thomas Edison added a telephone service in 1886 and electrical wiring in 1887. The electrical wires extended underground to the generating plant at the Edison laboratory. By the late 1890s, the Glenmont Estate was connected to the municipal water lines being constructed by West Orange and Llewellyn Park. Between 1902 and 1904, a new cesspool was excavated and a fire hydrant was installed between the north side of the house and Honeysuckle Avenue. By 1925, a sewerage pipe system extended to the greenhouse complex, swimming pool, chicken house and cow barn, and newly completed skating pond (CLR, 2010: 208-209).

Landscape Fixtures and Gazebo Bird Feeder.
In keeping with the picturesque and naturalistic style of landscape gardening in the early nineteenth century, many country places and suburban residences were often embellished with rustic features, which included fences, arbors, trellises, lawn seats, bird baths and feeders, and other decorative elements. In the initial development of the Glenmont Estate in the early 1880s, rustic features were placed throughout the landscape. In the establishment of the vegetable garden at the corner of Honeysuckle Avenue and Glen Avenue, a rustic wooden post fence—which supported old-fashioned roses—was constructed along its border. Henry Pedder also established a grapey (grape arbor) around a flower garden located adjacent to the greenhouse complex across Honeysuckle Avenue (CLR, 2010: 209).

During the Thomas Edison period, a variety of garden fixtures were added to the Glenmont
landscape; these included planted vases and urns; three rustic arbors near the formal garden adjoining the greenhouse complex and a collection of cast-iron and rustic wooden lawn seats set out in the front, west (back), and south lawns. As an avid birdwatcher, Mina Edison had a variety of bird baths, feeder, and houses situated throughout the Glenmont landscape. In 1920, Mina had a bird fountain designed and placed on the lawn near the house. The fountain was electronically wired to keep the water from freezing in winter. It was later moved from the lawn to the roof of the Conservatory where it remained until the 1940s (CLR, 2010: 210).

Bluestone Stoop.
Between 1880 and 1882, Henry Pedder constructed a bluestone stoop and set of steps as part the network of walks and paths established in the west and southwest portions of the Glenmont property. Located along Park Way, the rectangular bluestone stoop was more than likely used for mounting carriages and consisted of two steps with nosings; a large square landing with mitered border; and was flanked on each side by monolithic stone piers connected by low walls. Between 1910 and 1913, the walking path that proceeded from the Conservatory to Park Way, heading southeast, was removed along with the set of steps near the main drive entrance (CLR, 2010: 211).

Clothesline Posts.
Eight clothesline posts, located in the laundry yard on the northeast side of the house, were used to hang laundry lines during the Pedder and Edison eras. While the date of construction is unknown, it is assumed that the six foot tall posts were installed at the time of Henry Pedder’s ownership between 1879 and 1884 (CLR, 2010: 211).

Post-historic and Existing Conditions:
Misc. utility structures (including gas light poles).
With exception to the improvements that were made to the electrical systems in the 1940s, minimal changes have occurred to Llewellyn Park’s infrastructure since the historic period. The original gas lighting system is still in operation and many of the historic gas lamps remain intact, including the two located on the Glenmont property. In addition, the underground equipment that manufactured and regulated the gas are extant. A vault, which presumably housed the natural gas regulators, still exists in the lawn today (CLR, 2010: 207).

Following Glenmont’s acquisition by the National Park Service in 1959, a series of improvements were made to the utility systems including the installation of a water line, fire hydrant and a manhole in 1963, as well as HVAC and fire detection and systems and electrical upgrades in 2003. While many are no longer operable, the majority of utility structures that existed during the historic period currently remain intact, notably stormwater drains along the drives, the sewerage pipe systems, well and cisterns, a gas vault, and two segmented cast-iron light poles, (not to be confused with the gas light poles found along Park Way) located within the main drive oval and near Honeysuckle Avenue (CLR, 2010: 208).

Landscape Fixtures and Gazebo Bird Feeder.
Following the historic period, the vegetable garden and greater part of the rustic fence were removed, and many garden furnishings were lost. However, there are currently some historic garden furnishings and objects within the Thomas Edison National Historical Park museum collection, as well as two historic iron urns (with two dragon heads as handles) and some cast iron lawn furnishings found throughout the property (Figure 26).

One of the bird feeders—the gazebo bird feeder, located southwest of the Conservatory, was rebuilt in the late 1960s. The bird feeder is a six-foot high, metal-clad, glazed octagonal shelter with a hipped roof and sill perches. Below the feeder box is a rustic multi-bracketed seed tray with a segmented wood “tension ring” (Figure 27). Additional bird feeders, baths, and houses extant during the historic period continue to be found throughout Glenmont grounds. In 2008, the three rustic arbors were repaired and improvements were made to the remaining section of fence situated along the southern boundary of the former vegetable garden.

Bluestone Stoop and Clothesline Posts.
In 1999, repairs were made to the bluestone stoop (Figure 28). Currently, there are six clothesline posts. In 2009, one pole was in disrepair and had to removed; it is currently stored in the chicken house and cow barn (Figure 29) (CLR, 2010: 211).

Edison Grave Site Stone Ledgers and Japanese Funerary Lanterns.
In 1963, the remains of Thomas and Mina were moved from their resting place in Rosedale Cemetery, in Montclair, N.J., to the Glenmont Estate. The Edison gravesite included the original stone ledgers that were used to mark the graves at Rosedale Cemetery. The thin rectangular marble tablets were set atop granite slabs and placed flush with the ground. The gravesite incorporated rhododendrons and mountain laurels for screening, goldmoss stonecrop as groundcover, and a brick pad bordered by a Japanese holly hedge (Ilex crenata ‘Convexa’). Between 2003 and 2004, improvements were made to the gravesite. The work included the installation of a cedar decorative fence, an “oriental carpet” brick observation landing, the removal of the Japanese holly hedge and goldmoss stonecrop groundcover, and the planting of pachysandra (Pachysandra terminalis), tree peonies (Paeonia suffruticosa), and two ‘Sango Kaku’ Japanese maples (Acer palmatum ‘Sango Kaku’). In addition, two Yunoki-type stone lanterns and a trellis were included as a backdrop. The stone lanterns, previously located in the Laboratory Complex, were a gift from Japan in 1935 as an expression of the “Japanese people’s appreciation of Edison’s contribution to the welfare of mankind.” (Figure 30) (CLR, 2010: 211-212).

National Park Service Signs (interpretative/informational/directional).
As the park prepared for Glenmont’s opening in 1961, the National Park Service hired the Essex Sign company to install informational signage throughout the landscape to direct and orient visitors. Two years later, Harold J. Hamilton Associates completed a comprehensive topographic survey for the Glenmont Estate, which included numbering existing trees and attaching a metal disc to the trunk of the tree with the identifying number incised into the metal. In 1992, six waysides were added to the landscape in various locations; adjacent to the visitor
parking lot, in the laundry yard and flower garden, and near the garage. A bulletin board, located near the visitor parking lot was added in 2009.

National Park Service Furnishings (benches and receptacles). Following Glenmont’s transfer to the National Park Service in 1959, many changes were made to address visitor accessibility and safety including the installation of Victorian-style metal benches and trash receptacles.

In-ground Security Lighting.
In 1985, the National Park Service installed a system of in-ground security lighting around the perimeter of the Glenmont house as a security measure and to provide uplighting beneath specimen trees. There are currently nine in-ground floodlights within the landscape.

The rebuilt Gazebo Bird Feeder does not meet National Register Criteria Consideration E (Reconstructed Properties). Therefore, it is considered noncontributing. According to the National Register Bulletin, a reconstructed property is eligible when it is accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan and when no other building or structure with the same associations has survived. All three of these requirements must be met.

**Character-defining Features:**

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<td>40688</td>
<td>Gazebo Bird Feeder</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National Park Service Furnishings (benches and receptacles)</td>
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<td>In-ground Security Lighting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Japanese Funerary Lanterns</td>
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**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**
Figure 26. Historic iron planter used during the Edison period, 1886-1931 (OCLP, 2009).

Figure 27. The gazebo bird feeder, rebuilt in the late 1960s, is located southwest of the conservatory (OCLP, 2009).
Figure 28. View looking north at the bluestone stoop, constructed between 1880 and 1882. Located along Park Way, the rectangular bluestone stoop was more than likely used for mounting carriages (OCLP, 2009).
Figure 29. View of the wooden posts located in the laundry yard (OCLP, 2009).

Figure 30. The Edison gravesite landscape is sited on the west lawn within a grouping of rhododendrons and mountain laurels and contains the same stone ledgers that marked the graves at Rosedale Cemetery (OCLP, 2009).
Archeological Sites

Historic Conditions and Existing Conditions:
Prior to European settlement, the Glenmont grounds were part of a larger area inhabited by Native Americans, namely the Hackensacks. Within the vicinity of Glenmont, the first European settlers arrived in the late 1670s; they built houses, cleared fields, farmed the land, and started industries. By 1857, the Glenmont grounds were part of the larger Llewellyn Park residential subdivision. Beginning in 1879, Henry Pedder, with assistance from architect Henry Hudson Holly and landscape gardener Nathan Franklin Barrett, constructed buildings and structures (house, rectangular barn, carriage house, well house, pump house, hose house, chicken house/cow stable, and greenhouse complex), lawns, drives, paths, vegetable and flower gardens, and underground utilities. It is assumed that the majority of this work disturbed any prehistoric remains. Thomas and Mina Edison later constructed (garage, gardener’s cottage, potting shed, tool shed, swimming pool, skating pond, playhouse, summer house, flower beds, stone boundary wall), relocated (chicken house), and demolished (carriage house and well house), many features between 1886 and 1947; Thomas A. Edison, Inc., removed features (portion of paths, the vegetable garden and majority of the flower gardens) in the late 1940s and early 1950s; and the National Park Service removed a few buildings (tool shed, Tilney house, barn, and outbuildings) and added features to address visitor accessibility and safety since 1959 (parking areas, benches, signs, lighting, trash receptacles) (CLR, 2010: 213-214).

For further information on the archeological resources at the Glenmont Estate, refer to the “Archeological Overview and Assessment, Thomas Edison National Historical Park: Laboratory Unit, Glenmont Unit, and Maintenance Area, West Orange, Essex County, New Jersey,” completed in 2011 by The Louis Berger Group, Inc. Note: Documenting archeological significance is beyond the scope of this cultural landscape inventory.
### Condition

#### Condition Assessment and Impacts

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<th>Condition Assessment:</th>
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**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**
The Glenmont Estate is in good condition and shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Despite maintenance deficiencies identified as part of the recently completed Cultural Landscape Report (2010), the inventory unit’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

#### Impacts

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<td>Impact Description:</td>
<td>The hemlock hedge (Tsuga canadensis) along Honeysuckle Avenue have been left unclipped over the years and allowed to mature into trees. Currently, the row of hemlocks are roughly thirty feet in height and approximately 900 linear feet. In recent years, the dense shade from the hemlocks and American linden trees has been responsible for the decline of historic plant material within the service area and along Honeysuckle Avenue, specifically the privet hedges (Ligustrum sp.).</td>
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<td>Impact Description:</td>
<td>Historically, the south (lower) lawn and north pasture areas were maintained as meadow and pasture. The National Park Service currently maintains all turf area at a short height and uniform appearance.</td>
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Treatment

Approved Treatment: Rehabilitation

Approved Treatment Document: Other Document

Document Date: 01/01/1977

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

Specific direction on the treatment of the Glenmont Estate is found in a number of park planning documents, the earliest of which is the park “Master Plan” (written in 1969, approved in 1971, and revised in 1977). The plan recommended that the landscape be managed to “restore, maintain, and preserve the site grounds, as accurately and practicably as possible, as they were in the historic period, 1886-1931.” The plan recognized the need for further research to determine the appearance of the grounds in Edison’s last years and that a Historic Grounds Report should be prepared. The “Master Plan” included a number of specific recommendations for the landscape, which included the enlargement and revegetation of the greenhouse flower and vegetable gardens to their approximate historic size and condition; replacement of missing specimen trees and shrubs; stabilization of the concrete swimming basin; installation of signs and interpretive aids, and the construction of a parking area. The plan also called for the removal of the house and ancillary structures on the former Johnson-Tilney property and installation of a parking lot. The park subsequently implemented a number of the recommendations of the “Master Plan.” In 1980, a “Statement for Management” (revised 1990) built upon the direction of the “1977 Master Plan” suggesting that management at Glenmont emphasize the 1921 to 1931 period, despite subsequent changes by Mina Edison through 1947.

An additional report that has been developed to address the Glenmont Estate is the “Thomas Edison National Historical Park Long Range Interpretive Plan,” completed in September 2009. The plan defined the overall vision and long-term (5-7 year) interpretive goals of the park, examined issues and influences affecting interpretation and education, and addressed programming, accessibility, wayfinding, and interpretive and visitor services. The plan identified five interpretive themes—innovation/impact (theme 1), Thomas Edison (theme 2), the process of invention/the workers (theme 3), Glenmont (theme 4), and the resources (theme 5), which included several program recommendations. Specific to the Glenmont landscape, “Theme Four: Glenmont” proposed expanding interpretation of the cultural landscape by opening more outbuildings to the public, adding plant labels on the grounds (to identify plant specimens), and providing a downloadable map of tree species throughout the grounds on the park website.

Building upon these documents, the recently completed Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Glenmont (2010) recommends rehabilitation as the preferred treatment approach for recapturing the historic character of the landscape to reflect its appearance prior to Thomas Edison’s death in 1931. Guidance on the long-term management of the cultural landscape is intended to be both broad, encompassing the overall character of the landscape, as well as specific, relating to individual features. Key treatment tasks for the rehabilitation of the Glenmont landscape include the consolidation of visitor and staff parking; resurfacing of existing roads, drives, walkways, and paths; reestablishment of paths in west lawn and woodland area; accessibility to historic structures and grounds; reconstruction of hotbeds/cold
frames; and removal of incompatible non-historic buildings. Treatment also includes replanting deciduous and evergreen trees; and the reestablishment of vegetable and flower gardens, pasture areas, the hemlock hedge along Honeysuckle Avenue, and vines on buildings and structures.

**Approved Treatment Completed:** No

**Approved Treatment Costs**

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**Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:**

The approved landscape treatment cost data was derived from several PMIS projects addressing rehabilitation/repair of circulation systems (Provide accessible paths throughout Glenmont Estate-$105,000 [PMIS #163448], create accessible paths throughout Glenmont Estate-$164,195 [PMIS #164195], and improve access into Glenmont-$152,770 [PMIS #152770]), removing leaf litter-$27,456 (PMIS #16871), and improvements to interpretive media (Replace/update 17 waysides exhibits-$133,450 [PMIS #144111], replace signage-$45,000 [PMIS #153568]).
### Bibliography and Supplemental Information

#### Bibliography

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<tr>
<th>Citation Author</th>
<th>Commisso, Michael, Rose Marques, and H. Eliot Foulds.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Citation Title</td>
<td>“Cultural Landscape Report for Glenmont, Thomas Edison National Historical Park.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation Publisher</td>
<td>Boston, MA: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service</td>
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<th>Beadenkopf, Kristofer M., Zachary J. Davis, et. al</th>
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<td>“Archeological Overview and Assessment, Thomas Edison National Historical Park: Laboratory Unit, Glenmont Unit, and Maintenance Area, West Orange, Essex County, New Jersey.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citation Title</td>
<td>LANDSCAPES, Landscape Architecture, Planning, Historic Preservation. “Llewellyn Park Ramble Landscape: Preservation &amp; Maintenance Master Plan.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year of Publication</td>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>Citation Publisher</td>
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<td>National Register of Historic Places: Inventory- Nomination Form. US Department of the Interior, National Park Service.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citation Title</td>
<td>“Preliminary Scope of Work for the Glenmont Edison National Historic Site.”</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1992</td>
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<td>National Park Service, November</td>
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Citation Author: U.S. Department of the Interior
Citation Title: “Edison National Historic Site, Statement for Management.”
Year of Publication: 1990
Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Citation Author: U.S. Department of the Interior.
Citation Title: “Final Master Plan: Edison National Historic Site.”
Year of Publication: 1977
Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Citation Author: U.S. Department of the Interior.
Citation Title: “The Master Plan: Edison National Historic Site.”
Year of Publication: 1969
Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Citation Author: U.S. Department of the Interior.
Citation Title: “National Register Bulletin, Historic Residential Suburbs: Guidelines for Evaluation and Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places.”
Year of Publication: 2002
Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Citation Author: Yocum, Barbara A.
Citation Title: “The House at Glenmont, Home of Thomas Edison, Edison National Historic Site,” Vols. I and II.
Year of Publication: 1998
Citation Publisher: Lowell, MA: National Park Service

Citation Author: n/a
Citation Title: Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center
Citation Publisher: n/a
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