

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	New York
COUNTY:	Dutchess
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Rokeby
AND/OR HISTORIC:	La Bergerie

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
River Road at Junction with Hooker Woods Road			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Barrytown			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
New York	36	Dutchess	027

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC			
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Mrs. Richard Chanler Aldrich, Richard Aldrich, John Winthrop Aldrich, Mrs. Michele Michahelles			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
River Road			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Barrytown		New York	36

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Dutchess County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Market Street			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Barrytown		New York	36

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
See Continuation Sheet			
DATE OF SURVEY:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE

STATE:	New York
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Congressional Representative: Hamilton Fish, Jr.
District: 25

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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6. SURVEYS

(Continuation Sheet)

PAGE 1

(Number all entries)

Historic American Building Survey
1973 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 11

New York State Historic Resources Survey
1969 State
New York State Division for Historic Preservation
Parks and Recreation, South Mall
Albany, New York 36

Historic Resources of the Hudson
1969 State
Hudson River Valley Commission
South Mall
Albany, New York 36

Landmarks of Dutchess County
1969 County
Dutchess County Planning Board
Cannon Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 36

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The third residence built for his own use by John Armstrong on the tract inherited by Alida Livingston Armstrong, "Rokeby" is situated south of Barrytown (formerly Lower Red Hook Landing) on a rise between the Mudder Kill and the Hudson River. Armstrong positioned the structure to face south/southwestward over the undulations of the low hills of the east bank and down the Hudson River.

A photograph taken prior to William Backhouse Astor's mid-19th century alterations reveals that the Armstrong house, erected in 1811-1815, was a rectangular, two-story structure covered with a hip roof which culminated in a square, pyramidal-roofed cupola flanked by the upper stacks of four interior chimneys. A one-story porch across the front of the house extended one bay beyond the ends of the front wall. The front elevation was divided, as it is today, into three bays. Strictly axial in composition, the design of the front elevation focused upon the central bay containing the main entrance to the ground story, a Palladian window enframed by a large single arch at the second story level, a single gabled dormer window, and, above, the pyramidal-roofed cupola. Architectural evidence indicates that the structure originally measured three bays by five bays, and that the floor plan was composed around a central hall. However, this use of the central hall plan is somewhat unusual in the Hudson Valley in that the central hall runs between the shorter sides of the rectangle, and three rooms, rather than two, flank the hall. The side elevations of the original house are divided into five bays articulated by an axial composition of windows in which the central three are closely grouped on both the first and second story levels. With the central hall running south to north, the west parlors could derive the full benefits of the westward view across the Hudson River without the impairment of use as a passageway.

Armstrong is believed to have altered the house ca. 1816 with a northern addition, like the original house composed of fieldstone. The addition, measuring the full three bays in width, merely lengthened the structure extending the central hall and adding two flanking rooms. Owing to a rise in the ground, the wing stands 1/2 story higher than the main structure. Contained within this extension of the hall on what would have been the original exterior wall (north), is a panelled door flanked by sidelights and enframed by slender pilasters bearing an architrave with an attenuated cornice. The doorway, opening onto the second floor, is reached by a straight run of stairs to the door landing where the stairs turn 90° into two runs, east and west into the second story rooms of the addition.

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7. DESCRIPTION
(Number all entries)

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PAGE 2

At the middle of the 19th century, Margaret and William Backhouse Astor enlarged the house with the addition, in brick with brownstone trim, of a semi-octagonal tower on the west side off the 1816 wing, a north wing one bay wide and three bays long continuing the principal north/south axis, and a third story throughout the entire structure. The first floor of the tower, designed as a library, is an octagonal room lined with built-in bookcases interspersed with three French windows, all framed by Gothic colonnettes rising into pointed arches surmounted by a ribbed plaster ceiling. The upper floors contained the billiard room, a schoolroom, and, above, a railed observation gallery. The north wing provided a larger kitchen and office space, while the third story contained six additional bedrooms. The one-story porch or piazza across the front of the house, extending one bay beyond the ends of the front walls is believed to have been erected during this period. The last major alterations occurred in 1895 when Stanford White enlarged the west drawing room by removing a partition, redesigned the staircase in the main hall as well as some of the ornamental features of the porch, and added the double flight of stone stairs which lead to the main entrance.

The grounds are known to have been landscaped twice, ca. 1840 by European immigrant Hans Jacob Ehlers, and in 1911 by Olmstead Brothers. Ehlers plans, still in existence, called for a major vista south/southwest from the south piazza, ornamental planting, the present entrance drive, and the existing stone bridges with iron railings. The dressed stone dry wall which borders the property along River Road was erected between 1880-1888 by Josiah House, a mason long employed by the family. In 1911, Margaret L. Chanler commissioned Olmstead Brothers to improve the landscaping of the lawns and gardens west of the house.

North and northwest of the main house stands a complex of dependencies including a pair of clapboarded wood frame barns believed to date from Armstrong's period of ownership. Ca. 1850 the Astors erected additional stables (destroyed by fire), the greenhouse (converted to garage 1910, dwelling 1965), the square brick gardeners cottage, and the one-and-a half story gatehouse at the principal entrance on River Road. Later in the century Margaret L. Chanler added more farm structures, including a brick stable designed by McKim, Mead & White, and installed a private docking facility in a cove to the northwest

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☒ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An integral part of the land use patterns and life style perpetuated along the Hudson River for three centuries by the Livingston family, "Rokeby" is a fine reflection of the evolving tastes of the generations which resided there throughout the 19th century. Occupied originally by soldier/diplomat John Armstrong (1758-1843) and subsequently altered for William Backhouse Astor (1792-1875), the property served as a country seat for a family prominent in the social, political, and economic history of the Hudson Valley and state during the 19th century. The main house and its adjacent farm complex exist today essentially unaltered since the turn of the century and still within the rural context for which they were designed.

Prior to 1688, Col. Peter Schuyler of Albany purchased from the Indians a parcel of land on the east bank of the Hudson River, which today constitutes most of the Town of Red Hook. During the first half of the 18th century "Schuylers' Patent" passed almost in tact into the hands of Col. Henry Beekman who in 1776 bequeathed his extensive holdings to his only child Margaret. Merged with the extensive Livingston family lands with Margaret's marriage to Judge Robert Livingston of "Clermont" (National Historic Landmark), the Schuyler/Beekman land was subsequently divided among Margaret Beekman Livingston's ten heirs including Alida Livingston (1761-1822), wife of soldier/diplomat John Armstrong (1758-1843).

A major on the staffs of Generals Mercer and Gates during the Revolution, Armstrong in 1783 had "composed the 'Newburgh Letters' ... suggesting that the army should take matters into their own hands if Congress failed to meet their demands for arrears of pay."¹ Serving briefly as Adjutant General of the

¹ Concise Dictionary of American Biography (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1964), p. 28.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continuation Sheet) PAGE 2

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Pennsylvania Militia, Secretary of State of that Commonwealth, and member of the last Continental Congress, Armstrong moved to New York at the time of his marriage in 1789 to manage Alida Livingston's 27,000-acre tract. During the next decade Armstrong built two residences, "The Meadows" (1790), and "Mill Hill" (1796), both of which he sold.

Re-entering public service in 1800 as a U.S. Senator, Armstrong resigned in 1804 during his second term when he was named by President Jefferson to succeed his brother-in-law Chancellor Robert Livingston as U.S. Minister to the Court of Napoleon. Serving in this capacity during the Napoleonic Wars and the period of trade discord which resulted, Armstrong received "the 1810 note in which the French sought to convince the Americans that Napoleon had revoked the Berlin and Milan Decrees,"² a statement accepted at face value by the American government. That same year he retired to the Hudson Valley and began construction of "La Bergerie" but was interrupted by the outbreak of the War of 1812.³ Commissioned as Brigadier General and placed in charge of the New York City defenses, he was appointed Secretary of War by President Madison the following year. Armstrong retired in 1814, his "one notable achievement -- the advancement of Generals Andrew Jackson, Jacob Brown, and Winfield Scott --" overshadowed by the heavy criticism which he received for the Army's losses on the northern frontier and the capture of Washington, D.C. by the British.⁴ Returning to the Hudson Valley property he moved into the still unfinished "La Bergerie" in 1815 when the family's cottage burned. There he spent the remaining 29 years of his life overseeing the agricultural development of the property and writing a two-volume history of the War of 1812, in addition, to volatile political pamphlets, military biographies, and a voluminous correspondence.

² Ibid.

³ According to family papers, Warner Richards, a local master-builder, directed the construction.

⁴ Concise Dictionary of American Biography, p. 28.

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The marriage in 1818 of General Armstrong's only daughter, Margaret, to capitalist William Backhouse Astor (1792-1875), son of fur trader/capitalist John Jacob Astor (1763-1848), led to a transfer of title in 1836 to Astor for the sum of \$50,000. Renamed "Rokeby" by Margaret A. Astor after Sir Walter Scott's poem by that name, the property served as the Astors' summer residence and underwent several alterations including: re-design of the grounds by European landscape/architect Ludwig Ehlers; construction of a greenhouse, stables, gatehouse, and gardeners cottage; and enlargement of the house from a dwelling of 20 rooms to one of 48.

The death of the Astors' eldest child Emily -- wife of financier/lobbyist Samuel Ward (1814-1884), the "King of the Lobby" during the administrations of Andrew Johnson and U.S. Grant -- left her only child Margaret Astor Ward heir to Astor's \$100,000.00 fortune as well as "Rokeby". However within two years of William B. Astor's death in 1875 both Margaret Astor Ward and her husband John Winthrop Chanler -- New York City Congressman during the period of Reconstruction -- died leaving the estate to their ten surviving children who owned "Rokeby" as tenants in common during their minority. Most prominent of these Chanlers were: artist Robert Winthrop, Congressman/African explorer William Astor, criminal lawyer/reformer/politician Lewis Stuyvesant (Lieutenant Governor of New York, 1906-1908), and Margaret Livingston (-1963). A volunteer nurse styled by the press the "Angel of Puerto Rico" during the Spanish American War, and awarded a Congressional medal for her work in the organization of field hospitals in Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Japan and China, Margaret Livingston Chanler was instrumental in the creation of the Women's Nursing Corps of the U.S. Army and the Women's Municipal League, a predecessor of the League of Women Voters. The sole title holder to "Rokeby" by 1899, she established a professional dairy farm on the property, had portions of the house altered in 1895 under the guidance of Stanford White, and in 1911 engaged Olmstead Brothers to improve the landscaping west of the house. Married (1906) to Richard Aldrich (-1937), music critic of the New York Times, Margaret Livingston Chanler bequeathed the property in 1963 to her daughter-in-law and three grandchildren.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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The estate exists today as it evolved from Armstrong's arrival at the site in 1811 through the occupancy of William Backhouse Astor, and the early years of Margaret Livingston Chanler's ownership at the turn of the century. Several architectural styles popular during the 19th century attest to the wealth and tastes of the generations which spanned that century. Armstrong's symmetrical, simply designed but elegant country seat has been aggrandized by the increased dimensions and decorative detail of the Astor period, as well as McKim Mead and White's classical renovations. The main house and its adjacent farm complex, still situated on a sizeable tract of land, have survived uncompromised by 20th century intrusions as a 19th century country seat and working farm -- a well preserved embodiment of a life style which has characterized so much of the history of the riverfront of the Hudson Valley.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41° 59' 35"	73° 56' 04"				
NE	41° 59' 35"	73° 54' 52"				
SE	41° 58' 57"	73° 54' 52"				
SW	41° 58' 57"	73° 56' 04"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 437

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Lynn A. Beebe, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

New York State Division for Preservation

Historic

DATE

July, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

South Mall

CITY OR TOWN:

Albany

STATE

New York

CODE

36

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

Jan 7, 1975

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE New York	
COUNTY Dutchess	
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9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Continuation Sheet)

PAGE 1

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Aldrich, Margaret Chanler. "Three Unprinted Accounts of Rokeby, its Inhabitants and its Neighborhood." 1900-1930. Family Papers, Rokeby, Barrytown, New York.

_____. Family Vista. New York: William Frederick Press, 1958.

Chanler, Mrs. Winthrop. Roman Spring. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1934.

Concise Dictionary of American Biography. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1964.

Ehlers, Hans Jacob. Drawings for landscape alterations, 1849. Family Papers, Rokeby, Barrytown, New York.

Kavaler, Lucy. The Astors. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1966.

Lewis, John N. Reminiscences of Annandale, New York. Annandale: St. Stephens College, ca. 1892.

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Reynolds, Helen Wilkinson. Dutchess County Doorways. New York: William Farquhar Payson, 1931.

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Thomas, Lately. A Pride of Lions, The Astor Orphans. New York: William Morrow & Company, 1971.

_____. Sam Ward, King of the Lobby. Boston: Houghton Mifflin & Co., 1965.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE New York	
COUNTY Dutchess	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Rokeby			
AND/OR HISTORIC: La Bergerie			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: River Road at Junction with Hooker Woods Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Barrytown			
STATE: New York	CODE 36	COUNTY: Dutchess	CODE 027
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Lynn A. Beebe			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1973			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: New York State Division for Historic Preservation South Mall, Albany, New York			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Detail of main entrance, front (south) elevation			

INT: 154-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE New York	
COUNTY Dutchess	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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1. NAME			
COMMON: Rokeby			
AND/OR HISTORIC: La Bergerie			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: River Road at the Junction with Hooker Woods Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Barrytown			
STATE: New York	CODE 36	COUNTY: Dutchess	CODE 027
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PHOTO CREDIT: Lynn A. Beebe			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1973			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: New York State Division for Historic Preservation South Mall, Albany, New York			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View of front (south) elevation			

INT: 154-72

Form No. 10-301a
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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AND/OR HISTORIC:		La Bergerie	
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River Road at Junction with Hooker Woods Road			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Barrytown			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
New York	27	Dutchess	027
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Lynn A. Beebe	
DATE OF PHOTO:		1973	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		New York State Division for Historic Preservation South Mall, Albany, New York	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of semi-octagonal wing, west elevation of house			

Form No. 10-301
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

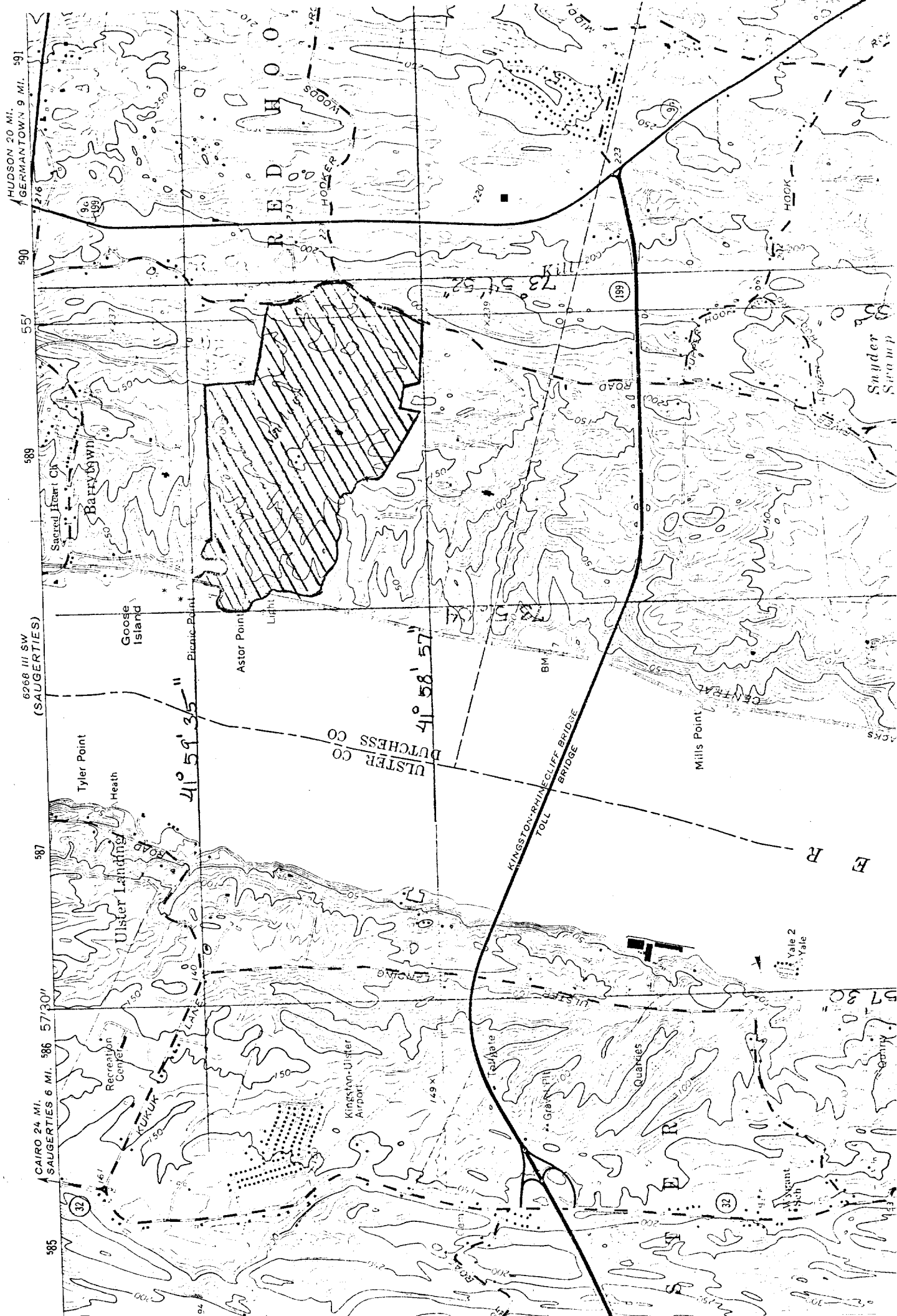
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

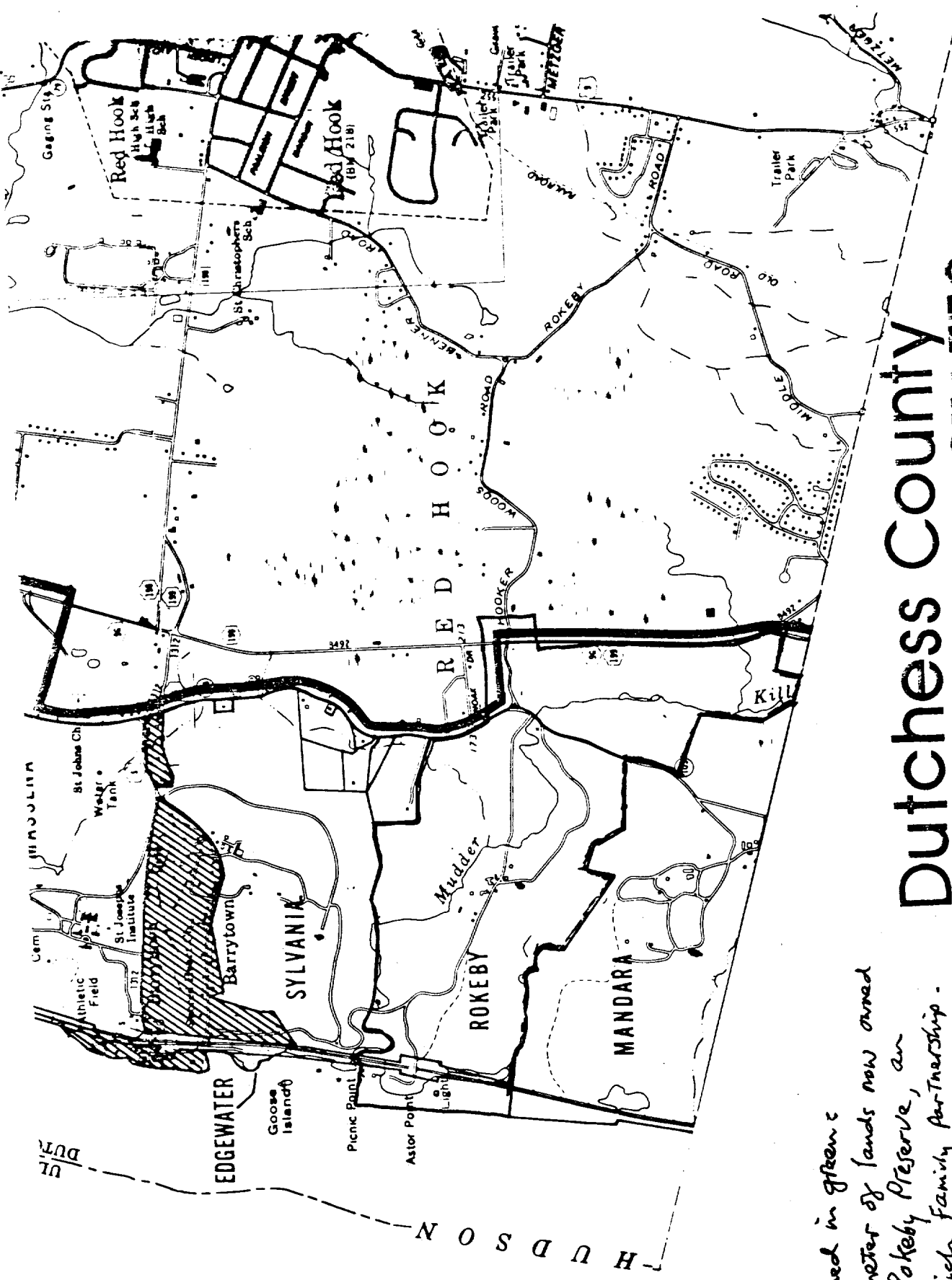
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
New York	
COUNTY	Dutchess
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Rokeby	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		La Bergerie	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
River Road at the Junction with Hooker Woods Road			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Barrytown			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
New York	36	Dutchess	027
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S. Department of the Interior, Geographical Survey, 7.5 Minute Series			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1963			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





Dutchess County HUDSON RIVER ESTATES Town of Red Hook

outlined in green
Perimeter of lands now owned
by Rokeby Preserve, an
Aldrich Family Partnership.

From *Saving Large Estates*, edit. W.C. Shapsin, 1977