



**Name of Property:** Yaddo  
**City, State:** Saratoga Springs, NY  
**Period of Significance:** 1926-1962  
**NHL Criteria:** 1  
**NHL Theme:** III Expressing Cultural Values  
2. Visual and performing arts  
3. Literature

**Previous Recognition:** 1978 National Register of Historic Places (contributing to Union Avenue Historic District, Saratoga Springs, NY)

**National Historic Context:** XXIV. Painting and Sculpture  
H. The 20<sup>th</sup> Century, 1900-1930  
2. Art Colonies, 1915-1930

**NHL Significance:**

- Yaddo is one of the country’s oldest artists’ retreats and is exceptionally significant for its close association with many of the influential writers, visual artists, and composers who shaped and imprinted American culture with a distinct national identity in the twentieth century. “Yaddo’s roster of guests might easily be mistaken for a syllabus of 20<sup>th</sup> century American culture,” observed *The New York Times* in 1986.
- Beginning full operation in 1926, Yaddo provided respite, lodging, and a rich creative social environment for more than a thousand visual artists, writers, and composers prior to 1962. Yaddo was a retreat where formative individual work in the careers of major cultural figures originated or was completed. Yaddo served as an incubator for



interdisciplinary artistic collaborations important to American culture among its guests and advisors.

- Nine Yaddo Festivals of American Music were held on the property between 1932 and 1952, and were nationally significant for premiering compositions and arrangements and pioneering the dissemination of live performance recordings of contemporary American music.

**Integrity:**

- Yaddo has been subject to few changes and retains an unusually high degree of integrity from the period of significance due to continuity of ownership and the institution's awareness of its singular cultural legacy.
- The major buildings and landscape used by its guests have been well-maintained and are in good to excellent condition.
- New construction has been minimal and changes to historic buildings have focused on adapting buildings for studios or residences.
- Preservation and maintenance work performed subsequent to the period of significance has been minimal and selective and has not reduced the integrity of materials, location, design, setting, feeling, association, and workmanship. Yaddo's state of preservation clearly evokes the built environment and spirit in which its momentous creative legacy was fostered.

**Owner of Property:** Corporation of Yaddo

**Acreage of Property:** 207.725 acres

**Origins of Nomination:** The Corporation of Yaddo initiated the NHL nomination and hired a consultant with the support of a grant from American Express.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

- Designation as an NHL will recognize a place and institution instrumental in shaping twentieth-century American culture.
- Designation as an NHL will advance the preservation of an exceptional built environment closely associated with the creative work of important twentieth-century American cultural figures.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None known.

**Landmarks Committee Comments:**

**Landmarks Committee Recommendation:** Designation. Dr. Murtagh moved, Dr. Clark Hine seconded; unanimous approval.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 11/05/12):**

The Honorable Scott T. Johnson, Mayor, City of Saratoga Springs, New York (signed waiver)

Ms. Elaine Richardson, President, The Corporation of Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, New York  
(owner/signed waiver)  
The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand, US Senator, New York

**Advisory Board Recommendation:**