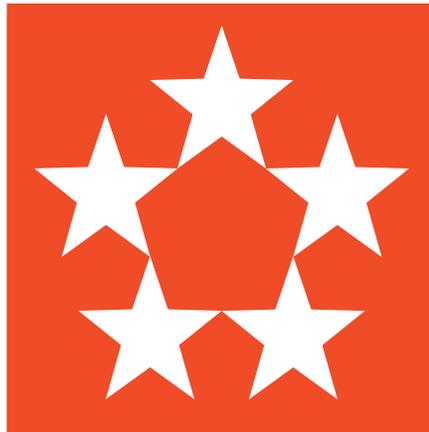


**CHAPTER 2:  
THE EISENHOWERS AND FARM #1,  
1951–1969**







## CHAPTER 2: THE EISENHOWERS AND FARM #1, 1951-1969

This chapter focuses on General and Mrs. Eisenhower's association with Farm #1 during the 1950s and 1960s. In the first section a general overview of the farm's acquisition, renovation, and use by the Eisenhowers is given. The second section provides a more in-depth discussion of the development of the ornamental landscape of Farm #1 and describes the condition of the property upon General Eisenhower's death in 1969.

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### ACQUISITION AND RENOVATION

#### The Eisenhowers Purchase Farm #1

After completing his tour of duty as Chief of Staff of the United States Army in 1948, General Eisenhower moved from Washington to New York City to serve as President of Columbia University. It was during this time that the Eisenhowers began to think about their retirement years and the possibility of purchasing a home of their own. John Eisenhower recalled his father occasionally mentioned looking for a place while at Columbia, possibly in the Middleburg area of Virginia, but he felt his parents were just really exploring the idea and there was not any urgency on their part. However, in General Eisenhower's own writings, he indicated the desire to own a home of their own had been something he and Mrs. Eisenhower had felt for quite some time. In a letter written to Mamie from Algiers, Africa, December 2, 1943, the General wrote:

*I know that when I find myself contemplating a post-war experience I always picture a little place far away from cities (but with someone near enough for occasional bridge) and the two of us just getting brown in the sun, (and possibly thick in the middle.) A dozen cats and dogs, with a horse or two, maybe a place to fish (not too strenuously) and a field in which to shoot a few birds once in a while - I think that's roughly my idea of a good life.<sup>1</sup>*

They had always lived in government-issue housing during "more than a third of a century of married life." As the possibility of retirement became a reality for them, they seriously "began to think about buying a house and farm" for their retirement.<sup>2</sup>

Throughout the years, the Eisenhowers had often talked about the kind of home they would want to own. These discussions became more frequent and grounded in reality during the time at Columbia. General Eisenhower recalled:

*While I was Chief of Staff, Mamie and I frequently discussed the sort of home that would fit us best, if we ever got one. On several occasions, we actually began making specific plans. These never got beyond sketchy scratchings. We knew that years would pass before we could do anything more than dream and talk. Now, after leaving the military and moving into Columbia, we started thinking again about a place of our own. The topic recurred regularly at Morningside Heights. For my part, I wanted an escape from concrete into the countryside. Mamie, who had spent a lifetime adjusting herself to other people's housing designs, or the lack of them, wanted a place that conformed to her notions of what a home should be. In the fall of 1950 we finally did something about it.<sup>3</sup>*

The "something" to which Eisenhower referred was the purchase of a farm just outside the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. There were several reasons Gettysburg was chosen. First, the town was an easy commute to both Washington and New York. Second, the Eisenhower's friends, George and Mary Allen, owned property nearby. The Allens had purchased a small farm in Adams County, four miles south of Gettysburg, east of Emmitsburg Road and had plans to restore their eighteenth-century stone farmhouse. They encouraged General and Mrs. Eisenhower to settle in the area. And finally, General Eisenhower had "a certain affinity to come back to Pennsylvania because [his] people were from here originally before they went to Kansas."<sup>4</sup> This affinity was enhanced by fond remembrances Eisenhower had of a 1918 command he held at nearby Camp Colt. During his brief nine-month post, the Eisenhowers settled into a life in the quiet town while he organized the training for the Army's Tank Corps. Eisenhower realized these "sentimental attachments," to Gettysburg, which were "reinforced by its significance in American, as well as personal history," made this a comfortable place for he and Mrs. Eisenhower to settle into retirement.<sup>5</sup>



During late 1949 and 1950, General and Mrs. Eisenhower made several trips to the Gettysburg area in search of a suitable farm to purchase. The Allens often accompanied them on these expeditions. Over a period of months, they examined many properties, but none of them seemed appropriate for their needs. Then, in October 1950, while Mrs. Eisenhower was in Denver visiting her mother, she received a call from George Allen. Allen informed her there was a farm available in Adams County that might be of interest. The weekend after Mrs. Eisenhower's return to New York, she and the Allens set out on another "farm hunting expedition" to see the Allen Redding Farm.<sup>6</sup>

By 1949, Allen Redding and his wife had decided to sell the farm and move into town. According to their daughter, M. Frances Jacobs, most of their children had already married and left home and Redding was "getting tired of farming 'cause he couldn't get help. And Rafael, my brother, didn't care about farming any more."<sup>7</sup> The farm was listed with John C. Bream, a local realtor. After the farm had been on the market for about a year, Bream told the Reddings he had "some prominent people" who may be interested in the farm.<sup>8</sup> Mrs. Eisenhower made her initial visit to the farm with Mrs. Allen shortly thereafter.

The Eisenhowers made an additional visit some weeks later. Mrs. Redding showed the home to Mrs. Eisenhower and Mrs. Allen, both of whom she remembered as "very sociable," while the men examined the outside of the house and the farm.<sup>9</sup> Eisenhower noted that the barn dwarfed the small house, the buildings were in a state of disrepair, and the soil was sorely depleted. He later recalled thinking it would "take work and money to modernize it." However, there were several selling points that made the property desirable. Eisenhower was enamored by the view of the mountains to the west, while Mrs. Eisenhower especially liked the old house with its large kitchen and the huge green ash trees in the eastern lawn. In spite of its poor condition, the Eisenhowers decided to purchase the property.<sup>10</sup>

However, a deal was not immediate in coming. The Reddings had begun to second-guess themselves and were unsure of their decision to sell. They had considered taking the farm off the market just before the Eisenhowers became interested, and after the Eisenhowers visited the farm, the Reddings did withdraw the farm for a short time. Negotiations with

Eisenhower's attorney, Richard A. Brown, convinced the Reddings to reconsider and they agreed to sell the farm, although they increased the asking price from what had originally been discussed.<sup>11</sup>

Years later, Mrs. Eisenhower gave her recollections of the purchase:

*Well, Ike and myself had been looking for someplace to go to in the summertime and we'd looked up and down the Hudson; well, they were mansions and I knew I couldn't staff them. So, I said aren't there any other places around here? And this man who had sold them [the Allens] the house...said, well there's one house or farm over here owned by a Mr. Redding and he says he's going to sell. Well Ike said, Mamie, you go over and look at it. Mrs. Allen brought me over and she sort of slurred my name so they didn't know it was Eisenhower. And I looked at this place and I saw these three big trees and they're ash and then they had a big square kitchen...That appealed to me [to] no end, you see, and I said, oh, I've just got to have that place...and Ike said, well Mamie, if you like it, buy it. The old gentleman then decided not to sell. Well, of course, woman-like, if I couldn't have what I wanted...well, I was heartbroken....in about three months, he decided to sell again....We had to buy everything – all the equipment, worn out and otherwise. And he went way up on his price. But we eventually took it, with the understanding, of course, that we were coming back here the following summer. We felt it was a place we could walk in, close the door and walk off.<sup>12</sup>*

The papers were signed giving the Eisenhowers ownership of the Redding Farm on January 15, 1951. The purchase included 189 acres of farmland, the old house, barn, outbuildings, equipment, and all farm animals, including a herd of approximately twenty-five Holstein milk cows, a dozen heifers, a few Chester White hogs, some white Leghorn chickens, and one horse. The Eisenhowers paid approximately \$40,000 for the farmland, structures, equipment, and livestock.<sup>13</sup> (figs. 2.1, 2.2)

Even though the Reddings had vacillated in their decision to sell the farm, in the end they were pleased to sell to the Eisenhowers. Raphael Redding remembered his father "was always very proud of the fact...that he sold to General Eisenhower. And of course the whole family



Figure 2.1. *The Eisenhowers' new farm, view toward west, ca. 1952. (Gettysburg Times, Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2873)*

was. If we were gonna sell...we'd like to sell to somebody like this...we were very proud of this."<sup>14</sup>

As it would turn out, the Eisenhower's plans for retirement to Gettysburg would be put on hold. In December 1950, before the farm transaction was even complete, General Eisenhower was called back to active duty by President Truman. Eisenhower was put in charge of NATO and he and Mrs. Eisenhower left for their new post in Europe soon after the New Year. It was arranged that the Reddings would remain on the farm until April 1, 1951. After this, General Arthur Nevins and his wife, Ann, moved into the Redding Farmhouse to oversee the farm in the Eisenhowers' absence.<sup>15</sup>

### General Arthur Nevins as Farm Manager

Arthur and Ann Nevins were long-time friends of the Eisenhowers. Both men had crossed paths repeatedly throughout their military careers. Their concurrent military service provided many opportunities for socialization among the couples, including frequent dinners and bridge-playing parties, giving them the means to establish a longstanding friendship. Nevins first met Eisenhower in 1917 when they were both stationed in the Army's 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Leon Springs, Texas. Eisenhower was a Captain at the time, and Nevins was a newly commissioned Second Lieutenant. They eventually went on to separate posts, then in 1936, they served together again in the Philippines. Nevins was a Captain stationed at McKinley, near Manila, and Eisenhower was an assistant to General Douglas MacArthur. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the start of World War II, Nevins was assigned to the War Plans Division on the general staff where then Brigadier General Eisenhower was also stationed. Eisenhower left for Europe a few



Figure 2.2. *The Redding farmhouse, western facade, ca. 1952. (Gettysburg Times, AP, EISE NHS files, #1471)*

months after Nevins arrived, and later Nevins served with him in both Algiers and Bari, Italy, where Eisenhower was in command. In late 1946, Nevins returned to the Operations Division, formerly the War Plans Division in Washington, and worked under Eisenhower, who was Chief of Staff. Nevins did not particularly like service in the Pentagon, so he requested retirement from the Army. The request came to Eisenhower's desk and he told Nevins he was making a mistake in retiring. He tried to convince Nevins to stay with the service, but Nevins' mind was made up and he left the military. A few years later, while working at Columbia University, Eisenhower offered Nevins a job as his assistant on a panel for the Council on Foreign Affairs that was studying aid to Europe. Nevins worked with Eisenhower there for about two years until Eisenhower was assigned to command the newly established NATO.<sup>16</sup>

When General Eisenhower accepted the NATO position and realized that he and Mrs. Eisenhower would need



Figure 2.3. *Arthur and Ann Nevins in the living room of the Redding farmhouse, ca. 1952. (Arthur Nevins, EISE NHS files, #1552)*

someone to oversee their newly acquired farm, he immediately thought of Nevins. Nevins, however, had initial reservations about the idea, feeling he really did not know anything about farming, although he had grown up on a farm in Illinois. Not willing to take no for an answer, Eisenhower told Nevins to hire advisors to assist in the operation. After some discussion with his wife, Nevins accepted the offer and he and Mrs. Nevins left New York for Gettysburg on April 1, 1951. They spent their first night in town at a hotel in Gettysburg and then moved into the Redding farmhouse.<sup>17</sup> (fig. 2.3)

Upon moving to the farm, Nevins immediately had to oversee the continued operation of the Redding dairy herd and the poultry operation. One of the first things Nevins did was to hire capable men to work the farm. He employed Raphael Redding since he already knew the farm so well. Redding had moved from the farm along with his parents when they sold to the Eisenhowers, but he agreed to work with Nevins for a time to keep things running smoothly. In May 1951, Nevins also hired Ivan Feaster as a farm hand. Redding worked on the farm for Nevins until the spring of 1952, when he left Gettysburg to pursue a singing career in New York City. To replace Redding, Nevins hired Dale Newman in May 1952. He also promoted Ivan Feaster to chief farmer and gave a full-time job to Bobby Heflin, who had been previously working at the farm on a part-time basis.<sup>18</sup>

Nevins had a good working relationship with the farm hands. He was primarily an overseer, managing the day-to-day activities of the farm, but leaving much of the manual labor to the workers. Ivan Feaster recalled



Figure 2.4. *Ivan Feaster on tractor in the farmyard, 27 January 1953. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2879)*

that he and Nevins worked well together, especially after Feaster became the chief farmer. Nevins seemed to trust the judgement of Feaster and allowed him to manage the details of carrying out the farm operations. When General Eisenhower came to inspect the farm, Nevins would always have Feaster close by to provide Eisenhower with specific details Nevins might not be familiar with. Feaster indicated that even though he and Nevins had the occasional argument over procedures, Nevins did not carry a grudge. After the decision had been made, what may have been a “heated discussion” was soon forgotten.<sup>19</sup> (fig. 2.4)

The typical work schedule on the farm involved the farm hands arriving at six o’clock in the morning. Feaster and Heflin did the early milking while Newman fed the cows, horses, chickens and hogs. The milking machinery was then washed and the milk was placed in the cooler, to be picked up later and delivered to the Royal Dairy in Baltimore. During an eight o’clock coffee break in the farmhouse, Nevins discussed the rest of the day’s work with the men. After coffee, the men did various farm chores. The eggs were gathered and Nevins cleaned, candled, and boxed them in the cellar of the house. Chores continued into the afternoon. At five-thirty, the evening milking was done, and after it was finished, the equipment cleaned and stored, and the milk placed in the cooler, the men headed for home.<sup>20</sup>

General Eisenhower was concerned that Art and Ann Nevins were “happy and contented on the farm.” He wanted to make sure that they felt like they were “getting a fair and just deal all around,” and he kept in frequent



touch with Nevins to make sure things were running smoothly.<sup>21</sup> Nevins was given freedom to manage the farm as he saw fit and the authority to make needed repairs to the house or farm buildings. In one of his many letters to Nevins, Eisenhower explained how these expenditures would be handled. He wrote, “I repeat that you should never want for alterations around the house. Minor repairs and so on, as I see it, are absolutely chargeable to the farm operation. Permanent additions are, of course, chargeable to me.”<sup>22</sup>

The dairy schedule caused Nevins some problem keeping adequate help on the farm. The combination of the lack of on-site housing for the hands and the hard work of milking the cows twice a day made it difficult for them to keep the dairy operations going. The poultry business was also hard work for very little profit. Gradually, Eisenhower wanted to get out of both the dairy and poultry, beginning the move toward raising pure-bred Angus cattle on the farm.<sup>23</sup> In letters to Nevins during the summer of 1951, Eisenhower expressed his thoughts on the poultry issue:

*I want to say that I thought you already knew how much I agree with your paragraph which begins, ‘I continue to regard chickens as the dirtiest, nastiest, dumbest creatures on the earth.’ So far as I am concerned – and I thought I had put this in earlier letters – you can sell any chicken on the place any moment you choose, saving only those you want to keep for your own household purposes. This I supposed was understood, and I am quite sure you will find George [Allen] in agreement. So from here on out, the decision as to chickens is entirely yours – if George agrees.<sup>24</sup>*

*I note that one week you sold 193 dozen of eggs. I think that, in a letter I wrote you some months ago, I urged the selling of those chickens on the grounds that you had enough to do without fooling with the vagaries of a whole flock of laying chickens. I still have youthful memories that made a chicken seem to me to be, except when properly cooked and on the dinner table, an exasperating sort of beast. Either you must have a somewhat different reaction, or the farm must be making a lot of money out of the darn things – otherwise, you would get rid of them.<sup>25</sup>*

In 1953, Nevins contracted tuberculosis and had to leave Gettysburg for a long-term hospital stay. Due to the extended nature of his illness, Nevins and his wife

moved out of the Redding farmhouse. Ivan Feaster and his wife moved into the Redding home and he assumed management of the farm.<sup>26</sup>

In early 1954, Eisenhower instructed Feaster to cease the dairy operation and sell the herd. He listed several reasons for this decision including labor problems and the health of the herd. Brucellosis, a bacterial infection causing some pregnant cows to abort their fetuses, was a major health concern for the cows. Redding had never had his cows tested for Brucellosis and when Feaster had the herd tested, six of the cows were positive and had to be destroyed. After Eisenhower made the decision to close the dairy, he wanted the herd dispersed without any publicity or advertising of a large sale. Difficult as this was, Feaster managed to accomplish this task and sold the stock to two different parties.<sup>27</sup>

After his recuperation and release from the hospital in 1954, Nevins returned to Gettysburg and resumed his managerial role, although he and his wife did not move back to the farm. Instead, they rented a home just outside of Gettysburg. Due to their good working relationship, there was no animosity between Nevins and Feaster when Nevins returned to his supervisory position.<sup>28</sup>

### Winning the Presidency

In early 1952, while Eisenhower was still in Europe at his NATO command, talk began to circulate among his friends and supporters of a possible presidential bid. Many prominent Republican leaders from the liberal wing of the party were eager to secure Eisenhower’s nomination for the upcoming presidential race. In order to assure his victory over the leading opposition, Senator Robert Taft, the support of the Pennsylvania delegation to the National Republican Convention was needed. The convention was scheduled for early July 1952 in Chicago. Strong Eisenhower backers, like Senator Duff of Pennsylvania, suggested a picnic on the Gettysburg farm prior to the convention as a way for the Pennsylvania delegates to meet with Eisenhower and hear his views on the issues of the day.<sup>29</sup>

Per General Eisenhower’s request, Nevins arranged the event, which consisted of a large picnic luncheon on the farm. This was to be the first of many such historical events held against the backdrop of the Eisenhowers’ farm, ranging from gatherings of supporters to individual meetings with visiting dignitaries. This first significant event was held in mid-June 1952 with about 350 people



in attendance, including delegates, prominent guests, and the press. The luncheon was catered by Henry Scharf, owner of the Gettysburg Hotel. Tables, complete with white tablecloths and silver place settings, were arranged under the trees in the field east of the farmhouse. According to all accounts, the afternoon was a great success. Eisenhower gave his remarks to an enthusiastic crowd from the farmhouse porch, taking the opportunity to formally announce his run for the presidency.<sup>30</sup> (figs. 2.5, 2.6)

General Eisenhower was pleased with how well the event turned out. Nevins recalled it as “one of the few times that I ever received praise from General Eisenhower. He said that it was absolutely perfect and the reason I mention [this]...is because in the service you don’t expect praise, you expect to get bawled out if you don’t

do a good job but you don’t expect somebody to pat you on the back every time.”<sup>31</sup> Along with his appreciation, Eisenhower expressed to Nevins the importance of this event in gaining support from those who “had been leaning toward Senator Taft.”<sup>32</sup> The success of the picnic played a crucial part in Eisenhower securing the Republican nomination for the presidential race at the July 7 convention.

Along with Eisenhower, the 1952 Republican ticket also included Richard Nixon as the vice-presidential candidate. On November 4, Eisenhower won the race, beating his democratic opponent Adlai E. Stevenson by obtaining fifty-five percent of the popular vote and the electoral votes of all but nine states. On January 20, 1953, Eisenhower was inaugurated as the thirty-fourth President of the United States.<sup>33</sup>

### New Home Construction

Shortly after the Eisenhowers moved into the White House in 1953, Mrs. Eisenhower decided it was time to fix up the farmhouse at Gettysburg. She made her opinion known to her husband, telling him, “Now look, we have this place. We bought it and paid for it. Now, I’ve never had a home. So let’s fix this up as a home.”<sup>34</sup> General Eisenhower had some hesitation on the timing of this project, because of his workload and the possibility of him seeking a second term. But due to Mrs. Eisenhower’s insistence, he was finally convinced and they started the process of farm renovation.

To begin the project, General and Mrs. Eisenhower hired architect George S. Brock, Jr., to analyze the structure of the Redding farmhouse and determine if renovations to the building were feasible. Brock’s report described the existing farmhouse as a seven-room structure built in two sections. There was a kitchen, living room, and dining room downstairs and four rooms plus a bathroom upstairs. The original part of the house was the northern section. It was twenty-nine feet wide and twenty-five feet deep, including two-stories with a low basement and attic. A twenty-two inch thick stone foundation supported log walls with timbers of varying size, from three inches by four inches to eight inches square. Mud chinking filled the space between logs, and diagonal braces gave extra support at the corners. A four-inch veneer of brick was a later addition to the outside, along with new wooden window sash. The log portion of the house was thought to be the original Quintain Armstrong home, and was estimated to be approximately 200 years



Figure 2.5. Delegates to the GOP National Convention picnic at Farm #1, 13 June 1952. (Paul Roy, *Gettysburg Times*, EISE NHS files, #2227)



Figure 2.6. General Eisenhower and the press at the GOP picnic, east facade of the farmhouse, 13 June 1952. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2213)



old. The southern section of the house was all brick and had a basement, two floors and attic. It measured eighteen by twenty-five feet. This was much newer than the northern log section, and was probably added to the original structure in the mid-1800s.<sup>35</sup>

Brock's report emphasized the deteriorated condition of the house. Many of the original logs within the brick walls were rotten and beyond repair and the building was not structurally sound. Although Mrs. Eisenhower had wanted to rehabilitate the historic structure, given Brock's analysis of the building, it was decided the best course of action was to raze the old farmhouse and build a new home on the site.<sup>36</sup> (fig. 2.7)

Milton S. Osborne from Pennsylvania State University was commissioned to design the new house. His plans "were purposely very general" in order for the Eisenhowers to make changes as they went along. From the beginning, Mrs. Eisenhower had the most influence in the design of the new home. She had a sincere desire to incorporate some of the remaining historic structure into the new house, so it was decided to include the existing Dutch oven from the summer kitchen and many of the original materials, like wooden beams and paneling, into the design. The solid brick section from the mid-1800s was also salvaged and incorporated into the new house. Another consideration was the location of the new house. An initial survey indicated the new building should be sited a few hundred yards north and west of the original house. This would provide a slight elevation and a little more distance between the house and existing barn. However, Mrs. Eisenhower's insistence that the house be constructed on the same site and the existing large trees be saved, along with the existence of extensive ledge rock, which discouraged the expansion of the basement, determined the new house would be constructed on the same location as the old.<sup>37</sup> According to General Eisenhower,

*the house had to be built step by step, according to Mamie's ideas. Building this way, work frequently had to be redone. Mamie occasionally forgot a detail to two. For example, when the walls were going up, we discovered that no plans had been made for central air-conditioning. Part of the walls had to be torn down so that air ducts could be installed. .... Other work had to be done over because of our improvised design. But the work was done well and the house, although not completely convenient, did conform largely to her ideas.*<sup>38</sup>



Figure 2.7. General Eisenhower inspects the farm with Ivan Feaster (left) and George Brock prior to construction, 13 June 1954. (UPI photo, EISE NHS files, #1323)



Figure 2.8. Workmen demolishing the lean-to on the south end of the Redding farmhouse, 17 November 1953. (AP Wirephoto, EISE NHS files, #2781A)

The Eisenhowers hired Charlie Tompkins, an old friend and contractor from Washington, to oversee construction of the house. When asked to take on the project, Tompkins was reluctant, telling Eisenhower, "I don't build houses." But Eisenhower was persistent, replying, "well, your gonna build this one," and Tompkins finally agreed. He personally oversaw all construction on the house and farm through his contracting company, Charles H. Tompkins Company. This work also included renovations to several farm buildings, the entry drive, and initial landscaping around the farm. E. L. Berkey served as the supervisory foreman for the renovations.<sup>39</sup>

Tompkins' men began work on the demolition of the Redding farmhouse in the fall of 1953. (fig. 2.8) Prior to this, Ivan Feaster and his wife were still living in the house, so to accommodate the construction, they moved from the farm, renting a home on nearby Water Works



Figure 2.9. The remaining Dutch oven after demolition of the house, facing southeast, January 1954. (Paul Roy, *Gettysburg Times*, EISE NHS files, #2788)



Figure 2.10. Boxwoods from the farmhouse were saved for later use, ca. 1954. (EISE NHS files, #3068)

Road.<sup>40</sup> When Tompkins' men razed the building, many of the construction materials were salvaged for recycling as Mrs. Eisenhower had desired. All useable timber taken from the log section was cleaned, sized, and stored. Plank flooring was carefully removed, cleaned, and stacked under cover. Most windows, frames, shutters, hardware, plumbing, radiators, and other fixtures were saved for possible later use. In the summer kitchen adjacent to the original house, all the wooden parts were removed, but the Dutch oven and fireplace were left intact and incorporated into the new structure. In the landscape, all existing shrubs and hedges were removed and heeled-in on the farm for later use. Stone from the house's foundation was later recycled in the garden walls.<sup>41</sup> (figs. 2.9, 2.10)

When construction had started, Tompkins asked General Eisenhower whether or not he should use union or local nonunion labor. Eisenhower said that due to his position as President, he thought it proper to use union labor even if this increased the costs. To see if this would indeed make a difference in the price, Tompkins kept two sets of books during construction, one showing the costs of construction with union labor, and another showing the costs with nonunion labor. In the end, it cost the Eisenhowers an extra \$65,000 to employ the union labor. This extra cost could not be completely attributed to the difference in wages, but also included the cost of transporting union workers to the site from as far away as Washington. In many instances, Eisenhower had to "pay for an eight-hour day for four hours' work with the other hours spent in traveling to and from the job."<sup>42</sup> This use of unionized labor also caused some delay in the construction schedule due to a few jurisdictional disputes between labor unions. Additionally, change orders arising from on-site modifications by Mrs. Eisenhower and others slowed progress. However, by late February 1955, the construction on the new house was essentially complete and the Eisenhowers began preparations to move their belongings into their new home.<sup>43</sup> (figs. 2.11-2.17)

On February 25, the Eisenhowers came to the farm to examine the nearly completed construction and begin the process of moving in. Mrs. Eisenhower, working with the assistance of Elizabeth Draper, an interior designer from New York, focused on the home's interior, while Eisenhower inspected the grounds and other buildings. When completed, the Eisenhower's new home was considerably larger than the original Redding farmhouse. The first floor contained a living room, dining room, porch, kitchen, office, one bedroom, two bathrooms, a powder room or half bath, laundry room, and a "Dutch oven room" located off of the kitchen. The second floor had six bedrooms, five bathrooms, and a sitting room. A studio, half bathroom, and additional storage space were located on the third floor. Much of the saved historic material from the Redding house was apparent in the new home, including old beams that were reshaped, salvaged wood floors and bookcases in the den.<sup>44</sup> The total cost for construction was \$215,000 including \$45,000 spent for additional improvements to grounds and outbuildings. The Eisenhowers "scraped the barrel" and the whole project was paid in full through their personal funds, including money Mrs. Eisenhower had saved over the years and some assistance from her mother, Mrs. Doud.<sup>45</sup>



### The Farm as a Home, Retreat and Showplace

Since they were still living in the White House when the home was completed, the farm was initially only used as a weekend retreat for the Eisenhowers. Nevins continued to manage the daily farm operations, although he and his wife no longer lived on the property.<sup>46</sup> General and Mamie Eisenhower spent their first weekend at the farm in April 1955. On July 1, 1955, to celebrate their 38th wedding anniversary, the Eisenhowers hosted a White House staff picnic and invited members of the office and domestic staff and their spouses, the Cabinet members and their spouses, and a few close friends. This was the first large event held at the farm since the renovations were complete and included a tour of the house, a picnic on the east lawn, and the presentation of an anniversary gift to the Eisenhowers from the staff. On August 9, 1955, due to the nationwide interest in the Eisenhowers'

home, an open house was hosted for the press, including tours of the house and the farm. As a result, many national newspaper and magazine articles were released describing the Eisenhower property in detail.<sup>47</sup>

The Eisenhowers were extremely pleased with their new home and had been anticipating life on the farm since they first purchased the property. In a 1951 note to Nevins, Eisenhower had expressed this anticipation:

*More and more, Mamie and I project ourselves forward into that setting. Ever since we acquired title to that place we have been thinking ever more specifically and frequently of life in a secluded place, on a productive piece of ground. I simply cannot tell you how often we talk about you, and the idea of all of us living together in the Gettysburg district.<sup>48</sup>*



Figure 2.11. Construction on new home, view toward the southeast, spring 1954. (Gettysburg Times, EISE NHS files, #2791)



Figure 2.12. Construction on new home, view toward northeast, January 1954. (Paul Roy, EISE NHS files, #1103)



Figure 2.13. Stockpiling materials near the Redding garage for use during construction, view from the south toward the barn, spring 1954, two images combined into one panorama. (Gettysburg Times, EISE NHS files, #2784 & #2789)



Figure 2.14. The Eisenhowers' new home nearing completion, view toward the southwest corner, 11 June 1954. (LIFE Magazine, EISE NHS files, #3424)



Figure 2.15. General and Mrs. Eisenhower admire a goose during a construction visit, summer 1954. (EISE NHS files, #2240)



Figure 2.16. General Eisenhower and W. Alton Jones visit the construction site, 11 June 1954. (LIFE Magazine, EISE NHS files, #3425)



Figure 2.17. Mrs. Eisenhower inspects the construction, 11 June, 1954. (LIFE Magazine, EISE NHS files, #3427)

Once the renovations were completed, the Eisenhowers considered the farm their true home and would spend as much time there as possible. According to John Eisenhower, his mother “grew up in a fairly solid environment where they had this nice home out in...Denver, and I believe that she missed that, being a nomad through all those years.”<sup>49</sup> The Gettysburg farm was particularly important to her because it was a place she could make a permanent home. Having the farm as a stable home throughout the White House years also lessened the “come-down” after Eisenhower was out of office. Since they spent so much of their free time at the farm, it was comfortable and familiar when they moved in permanently after Eisenhower’s second term ended in 1961.

During Eisenhower’s presidency, and for some time after he left office, he brought many visiting dignitaries to Gettysburg to show off the farm and his successful cattle operation. These visits served as “ice-breakers” with the guests and provided a brief respite from stressful meetings or negotiations. It also provided an opportunity to show a typical American small town and rural farm to world leaders. During these visits, Eisenhower would escort the guest around the farm in one of his golf carts or the four-cylinder car “Crosley Runabout,” which was the frequent mode of transportation on the farm.<sup>50</sup> John Eisenhower recalled,



*To get the full scale treatment, everyone had to come down by helicopter from Camp David to be shown around here. Barbara and I were always sorry that we didn't keep a guest book down here because all but Khrushchev [also] were brought down to our house by Dad to show them how the average American family lived.<sup>51</sup>*

Some of the individuals to visit the farm included West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and French President Charles deGaulle. (figs. 2.18-2.21) Table 2.1 provides information on the documented visits to the farm by foreign dignitaries.

The farm was also put to use for many parties and gatherings. The Eisenhowers regularly celebrated their July anniversary with a picnic at the farm for their family, friends, and members of the White House staff. When Eisenhower announced his intention to run for a second term, a large luncheon and rally was arranged to bolster support from the Republican Party. As they had during the 1952 picnic, Nevins and his crew were in charge of preparing for the event. In September 1956 over a thousand people were in attendance at the farm. Nevins had a large tent erected in the field east of the house. It contained seating for 700 with additional seating provided in an adjacent press tent. Once again, Henry Scharf and his staff from the Gettysburg Hotel catered the picnic lunch. Along with the dining accommodations, facilities were provided for more than 200 photographers and reporters, including five telephone booths, fifteen

Western Union teletype machines, and facilities for six television crews. The Eisenhowers arrived at the picnic in the Crosley Runabout, and Eisenhower, as always, “took a deep interest in the welfare of the employees of Eisenhower Farms. Prior to the rally, he personally saw that they and their families were invited to sit and eat with the guests.<sup>52</sup> (figs. 2.22-2.23)

### John and Delores Moaney

John and Delores Moaney, an African-American couple, began working for the Eisenhowers at the farm during the mid-1950s. Moaney was Eisenhower’s valet and “right-hand-man,” taking care of many of his personal needs as well as doing odd jobs around the farm. He had been with General Eisenhower since 1942. Moaney was especially fond of gardening and took over most of the responsibility for the vegetable gardens. Delores worked in the house for Mrs. Eisenhower where she did some of the cleaning and all of the cooking.

Moaney had first met Eisenhower when he was drafted into the army in 1942. He became part of an eight-person crew of non-commissioned officers and soldiers at Eisenhower’s command post. Moaney was in charge, among other things, of Eisenhower’s dogs, two Scotties named “Telek” and “Khaki,” and their various litters of puppies. John Eisenhower recalled, “there were always eight or nine pups around the house and Moaney was in charge of them. So Moaney and dad became fast friends.”<sup>53</sup> At the end of the war, Moaney decided to stay with General Eisenhower as his personal



Figure 2.18. General Eisenhower and Sir Winston Churchill in golf cart near the helipad on Farm #1, 6 May 1959. (UP/AP photo, EISE NHS files, #1446)

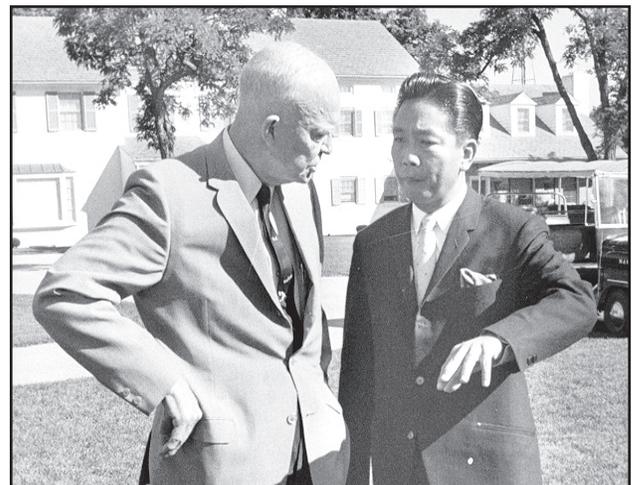


Figure 2.19. General Eisenhower confers with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos on the front lawn of the house, 16 September 1966. (Paul Roy, AP photo, EISE NHS files, #2497)



TABLE 2.1  
VISITING DIGNITARIES AT THE EISENHOWER FARM

Visitor	Date	Notes on Visit
Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India	December 1956	Eisenhower gave Nehru a tour of the farm in the Crosley, including a stop at his prized Angus bull, Ankonian 3551. They held private talks on the porch during lunch, tea, and dinner. Nehru stayed overnight at the farm.
Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery of Great Britain	May 11, 1957	Eisenhower and Montgomery reminisced about their association during WWII and toured the Gettysburg battlefield. Some comments made by both men during the tour were pounced upon by the accompanying press and stirred up quite a controversy for Eisenhower. Early on, Montgomery had remarked that if he had been in command during the Battle of Gettysburg, he would have sacked both General Robert E. Lee and Major General George G. Meade for the way they handled the situation. Later, when Montgomery reiterated this attitude, Eisenhower replied if Montgomery had been in charge of the Confederate troops and fought as General Lee had, Eisenhower would have "sacked him." Later, Eisenhower found several individuals and groups had taken offense to the remarks and rose to Lee's and Meade's defense, including the United Daughters of Confederacy.
Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of West Germany	May 26, 1957	Adenauer and Eisenhower lunch at the Eisenhower home, retire to the porch to discuss politics, and then toured the cattle operation. Eisenhower explained how the show cattle were prepared and showed him several individuals from the Eisenhower-Jones herd. Both men flew back to Washington that same evening.
Prime Minister Harold Macmillan of Great Britain	March 12, 1959	As a break from their Camp David talks on the Berlin situation, the men visited the John Eisenhower family and watched grandson David shoot basketball.
Former Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain	May 6, 1959	Sir Winston Churchill lands by helicopter and spends one hour and seven minutes visiting the farm with Eisenhower. Churchill is no longer prime minister and has suffered a stroke, but is able to tour the farm via golf cart and Crosley Runabout. Eisenhower shows him his registered Angus in the show barn and offers him a beverage on the porch. They fly over the battlefield before leaving Gettysburg.
Premier Nikita Khrushchev of the Soviet Union	September 26, 1959	Khrushchev made a short side trip to the farm during his official state visit. He and Eisenhower were at nearby Camp David, when Eisenhower suggested they take a helicopter ride to the farm as a tension-breaker. They spent a few minutes at the house, then went to Farm #2 to see the show herd. Khrushchev later met with Barbara Eisenhower and the grandchildren on the porch. After the seventy-five minute visit, Eisenhower and Khrushchev returned to Camp David to resume talks.
President Lopez Mateos of Mexico	October 10, 1959	This is a return visit for Eisenhower's trip to Mexico to enhance the friendship between the two countries. Improved relations result in the construction of a radar tracking station in Mexico, essential for NASA's Project Mercury. Mateos watches the equestrian performance by granddaughter Susan Eisenhower. Eisenhower gives him a tour of the farm and show barn.
President Lleras Camargo of Colombia	April 7, 1960	Camargo visits the farm and the nearby John Eisenhower home. The visit last two hours and twelve minutes.
President Charles deGaulle of France	April 24, 1960	During his official state visit, Eisenhower gave deGaulle a quick tour of the house, flower beds, and barn where they inspected one of Eisenhower's new Arabian horses. They took the Crosley Runabout to the Show Barn on Farm #2 to inspect the Angus herd, in the company of approximately seventy waiting reporters. After much discussion about the livestock operation, and a quick visit to the nearby battlefield, they boarded the helicopter for the return trip to Camp David.
President Ayub Kahn of Pakistan	July 15, 1961	Khan visits for one hour. Eisenhower had visited Pakistan on his eleven nation tour of European, African, and Asian countries in December 1959.
Vice President Chen Cheng of the Republic of China (Taiwan)	August 2, 1961	Eisenhower had visited the Republic of China in June 1960 in a show of support for Formosa (Taiwan). He supported the Republic of China against the People's Republic of China over the bombing of the islands of Quemoy and Matsu.
King and Queen of Afghanistan	September 7, 1963	The King and Queen spend ninety minutes at the farm and meet John and Barbara Eisenhower and the grandchildren. The King is interested in cattle and he and the Queen tour the cattle barns with the General and Mrs. Eisenhower. Eisenhower had visited Afghanistan in December 1959 as part of his eleven-nation tour.
President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines	September 16, 1966	Eisenhower had visited the Philippines as President in 1960 and met with Marcos' predecessor, President Garcia.
King and Queen of Nepal	November 1967	The King and Queen of Nepal visit the farm.



Figure 2.20. General Eisenhower and French President Charles deGaulle arrive at the Show Barn on Farm #2 in the Crosley Runabout, 24 April 1960. (EISE NHS files, #2475.A)



Figure 2.23. Tents and tables set up for a White House staff party on the eastern lawn of Farm #1, 1 July 1959. (Mary Jane McCaffree, EISE NHS files, #2318.A)



Figure 2.21. General Eisenhower and French President Charles deGaulle inspect the Show Barn on Farm #2, 24 April 1960. (EISE NHS files,

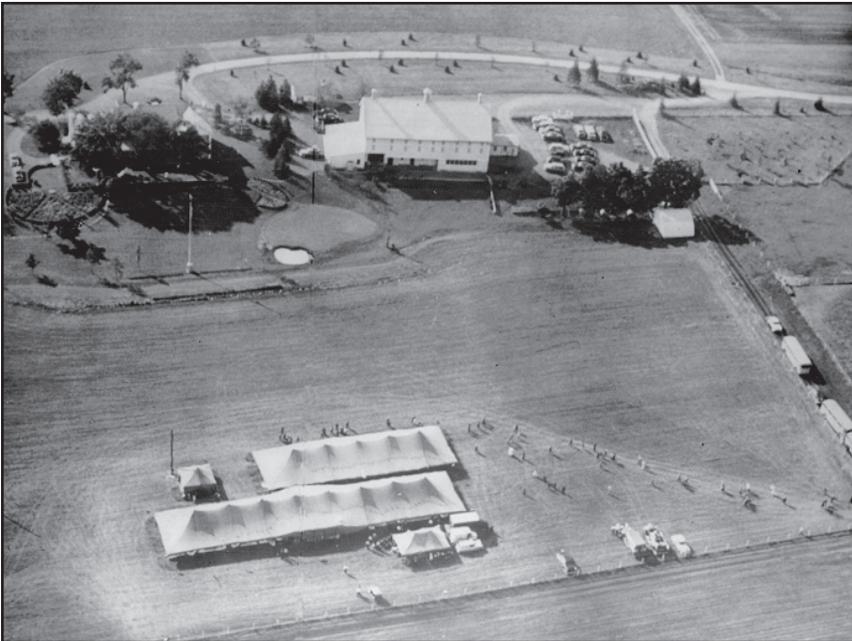


Figure 2.22. Tents set up on the eastern field of Farm #1 for a GOP rally, 12 September 1956. (EISE NHS files, #3018)

valet, and remained in his service throughout the rest of Eisenhower's life. He accompanied Eisenhower wherever he was stationed, eventually ending up in the White House, and finally at the Gettysburg farm. Moaney met Delores while in Washington and they were married in 1948. Mrs. Eisenhower offered Delores a job in the household, and Delores accepted. She started cooking for the Eisenhowers in October 1948, going with them to the White House in the 1950s, and finally to Gettysburg. Delores and John Moaney remained with Mrs. Eisenhower until 1977.<sup>54</sup>

John and Delores Moaney were indispensable to the Eisenhowers in maintaining the house and farm. In remembering the Moaneys, John Eisenhower said, "my parents couldn't run that house without somebody like the Moaneys. You just don't buy loyalty like they had....They took care of Mother for quite a long while after Dad died even though, quite frankly, it was not in their best interest. They just took care of her out of loyalty."<sup>55</sup>

### Retirement Years

After the January 1961 inauguration of John F. Kennedy as the thirty-fifth President of the United States, the Eisenhowers moved to the Gettysburg farm permanently and began enjoying their retirement years. Upon arriving at the farm on January 20, they were met with a warm welcome by a reception committee headed by Paul L. Roy of the *Gettysburg Times*, and a "Welcome Home Community Dinner" the next



day at the Gettysburg Hotel. Over 2000 people came to the town square for a public reception before the dinner, despite the fourteen-degree weather. At the dinner, which included a guest list of 217 county residents, the Eisenhowers were presented with an engraved silver platter.<sup>56</sup>

General Eisenhower's retirement years were by no means sedentary. He continued his farming and cattle operations until the late 1960s. Much of his time during the early 1960s was spent writing his memoirs with the help of his son John. He maintained an office at nearby Gettysburg College for this work. He also kept his former political ties and remained fairly active in world affairs. His expert advice on foreign policy was sought by leaders like President Kennedy, after the "Bay of Pigs" incident, and President Johnson during the Vietnam War.<sup>57</sup>

Eisenhower also used quite a bit of his free time developing his skill at oil painting, a hobby he began

in 1948. Many hours were spent at his easel on the porch creating numerous portraits and landscapes. He gave most of his paintings away to his family and close friends. (fig. 2.24)

Mary Jean Eisenhower recalled how special it was to receive one of her grandfather's paintings. She had not been given one and had mentioned to her sister-in-law, Julie, she "was feeling kind of left out." Julie later told this to General Eisenhower, and Mary Jean thought, "Oh, no...I didn't want him to feel like he had to give me one." Later, Mary Jean was at the farm and her grandfather said to her, "Mary Jean, I've been thinking, perhaps you don't have one of my paintings. It's occurred to me that I've never given you one...you might not want one at all. You don't have to take one, but you may have your choice of any one of these." General Eisenhower laid thirty or so paintings out for Mary Jean to choose from and "it was like being in a toy shop at Christmas." She chose a Hudson River scene that he had just finished. Eisenhower said, "Mamie, she picked the one you didn't like." Mary Jean recalled it was like she had "unhurt his feelings" because apparently Mrs. Eisenhower had told him she did not like this particular painting.<sup>58</sup>

The Eisenhowers continued to participate in local community affairs throughout their retirement years. They frequently went into town for a movie and dinner at the Gettysburg Hotel. However, they did not spend the winters at the farm. Most winters were spent in Palm Desert, California, where they could enjoy the warmer climate and Eisenhower could work on his golf game. Traveling by train, they would leave Gettysburg around early December, stay in a home owned by the country club, and return to the farm the next April. After Eisenhower's death in 1969, Mrs. Eisenhower continued this tradition, and often traveled to Augusta, Georgia for the winters. She would stay at "Mamie's Cottage," a cabin the golf club owned and had built for the General and Mrs. Eisenhower after the 1953 presidential election.<sup>59</sup>



Figure 2.24. General Eisenhower at his easel on the porch, ca. 1966. (EISE NHS files, #2380.)



## FARM #1 ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPE

Installation of the ornamental landscape on Farm #1 began soon after the home's construction was complete in the mid-1950s. The landscape continued to change and develop throughout General and Mrs. Eisenhower's ownership with the addition and/or subtraction of plantings, structures, and small-scale features. The following section documents both the ornamental landscape's initial development and the specific changes that occurred from the mid-1950s until 1969.

The information provided in this section was taken from several sources including oral histories, correspondence, farm records, and historic photographs. Additionally, three historic site plans were used to document change during the Eisenhower period. A 1955 plan is the earliest drawing of the Eisenhower landscape found in the historic record. The designer of this plan is unknown. Although the plan does not indicate whether it is a proposed design or an as-built drawing, it does list donors for specific trees and shrubs, as well as their location. This information leads one to assume that the plan reflects the actual landscape as installed. Two other plans were developed by the NPS in 1967 and 1969 to record the existing site conditions at the end of the Eisenhower period.<sup>60</sup> These three plans are included in Appendix A. Where specific mention of the feature is made in other documentation, a notation is included in the text. Late 1960s site conditions for each landscape

element or feature were extrapolated from the historic plans and checked against historic photographs and documents for accuracy. Discrepancies are corrected on an updated 1969 Period Plan following this chapter that graphically documents the existing conditions of Farm #1 at the end of the Eisenhower period.

For organizational purposes, the landscape of Farm #1 has been divided into six subareas (fig. 2.25):

- Area 1: Entry Gate and Drive,
- Area 2: Main House,
- Area 3: Barn,
- Area 4: South Gardens,
- Area 5: Orchard, and,
- Area 6: Pastures and Fields.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, concurrent development was occurring in all areas of the farm. As such, the narrative does not follow a strict chronology for the entire farm, but rather the development of each individual area is discussed in detail for the entire Eisenhower period.

### Initial Renovation Ideas

When the initial renovations began on the farm in 1954, Charlie Tompkins oversaw work on the farm's landscape as well as the construction of the new house and rehabilitation of farm buildings. Tompkins turned to Horace Peaslee, one of his foreman who had landscape

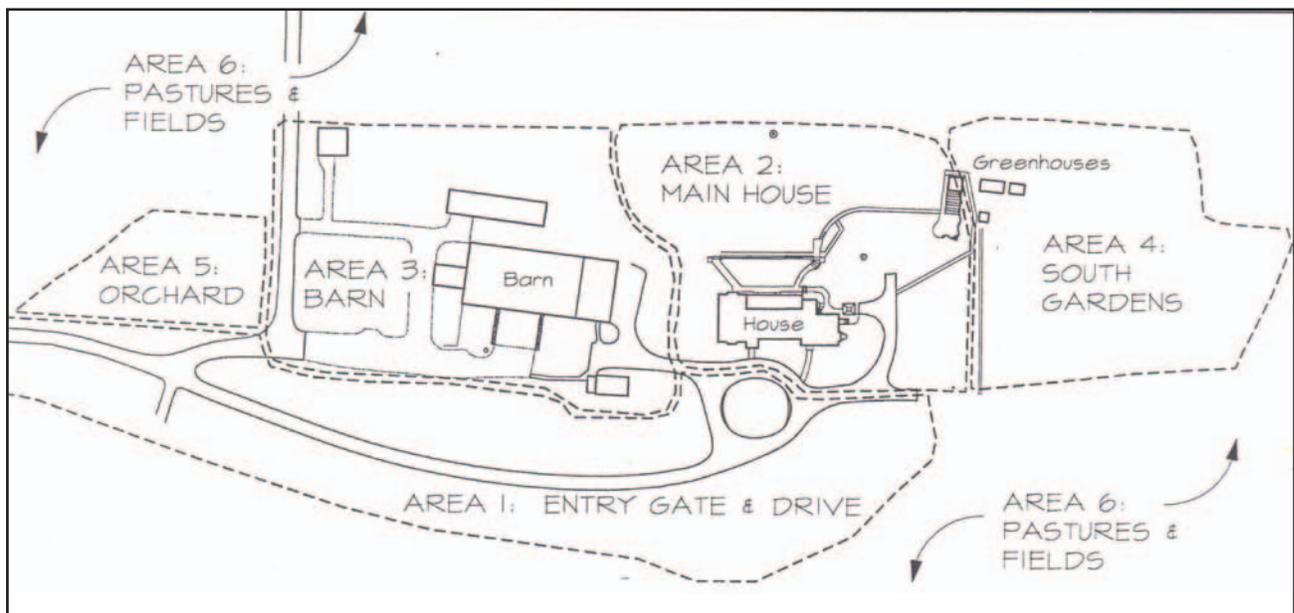


Figure 2.25. Divisions of the Farm #1 landscape.



experience, for the development of a new landscape design for the property. In September 1954, Peaslee sent Eisenhower some sketches of how he thought the grounds should be developed around the new Eisenhower home.<sup>61</sup> (fig. 2.26) Apparently Peaslee's plans were quite extensive and emphasized a formal landscape, as indicated by Eisenhower's reaction in a memorandum to his friend Colonel Schulz. Eisenhower stated "Of course they comprise a plan that would make a most beautiful place, but I do have to think of the cost of maintenance, as well as the difficulty of getting a man who can take care of gardens of a formal, or even complicated, character." Eisenhower gave Peaslee some additional guidance regarding his wishes in the development of the landscape. He indicated the kitchen garden should not be outlined with permanent plantings, creating the "necessity each spring of spading it up by hand," but should be kept as an open field so it could be turned with a plow, saving time and labor. Eisenhower wanted a "fine stand of grass" around the home, a rose garden, which he thought "would be very useful and

attractive," and a "narrow strip all around the back and sides of the grass plot where Mrs. Eisenhower could, on her own, raise seasonal flowers, such as zinnias and so on."<sup>62</sup>

### Chief Walter A. West

The ornamental landscape was primarily influenced by the work of Chief Petty Officer Walter A. West, General Eisenhower's grounds crew supervisor at the farm. In 1953, West had been assigned to nearby Camp David. After Eisenhower observed West's work and liked what he saw, West was asked to supervise the landscape work on the farm along with his responsibilities at Camp David.<sup>63</sup>

West had been stationed at Norfolk, Virginia, when he received the order to come to Camp David. Prior to his enlistment in the U.S. Navy, West had gained an extensive background in horticulture and landscape design. While in college in Oklahoma, he studied

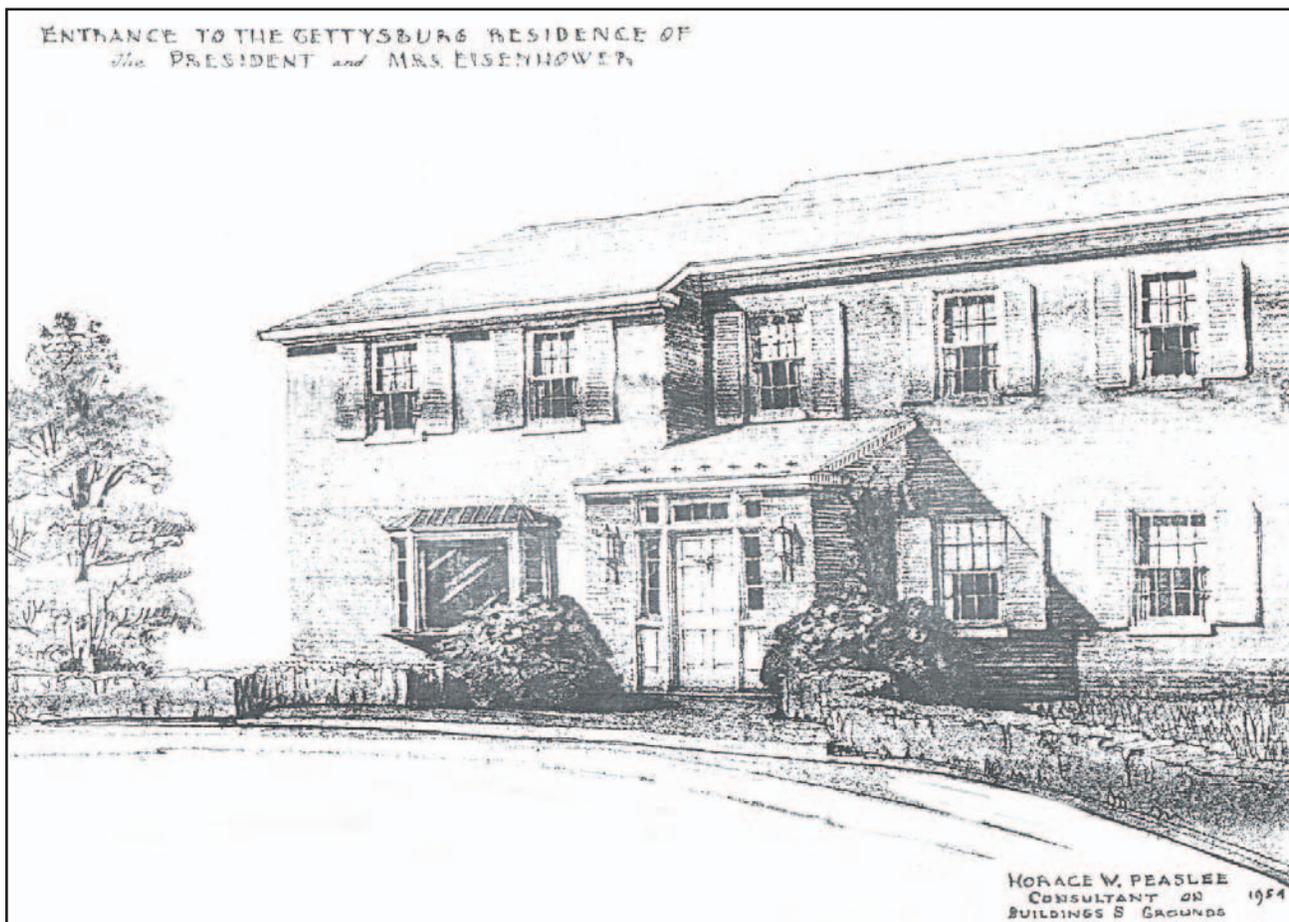


Figure 2.26. Horace Peaslee sketch of the proposed entry to the Eisenhower home showing formal plantings of shrubs around drive, October 1954. (Ann Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Construction," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.)



landscape architecture and after working in his family's florist business for a short time, he started a nursery in Deland, Florida. His position in the Navy was loosely referred to as a "posey mate" because he was on the grounds crew and had the job of maintaining the base landscaping, including various ornamental flower beds. When West was ordered to report to Camp David, he did not know what to make of it because the notification came as "a speed letter to report to the U.S. Shangrila." Thinking that the Shangrila was a Navy ship, West was confused about his new assignment and he inquired of his commanding officer "What kind of flowers could they grow on the Shangrila?" Shangrila, however, was not an aircraft carrier as West had imagined, but the original name for Camp David. President Eisenhower was looking for someone to oversee the maintenance of the Presidential retreat. Apparently West's reputation as a capable landscape gardener had preceded him and he was recommended for the job.<sup>64</sup>

When West arrived in Washington, President Eisenhower gave him instructions on how he wanted the landscape at Camp David maintained. Then he sent West to the site to let him look things over. After visiting the grounds and indicating to Eisenhower that he could handle the job, West was assigned to the post and began working full time at Camp David. West's more direct association with the Eisenhower Farms came soon thereafter. West recalled,

*I was sent to the farm to pick up Mr. Reed with the RCA people and Mr. Alton Jones...and take them to Camp David. While I was sitting there waiting, I drew a picture of what I thought the place ought to be landscaped like, and I hung it in the chicken coop house. The next thing I knew I was called to come see Mr. Eisenhower and he asked me, 'Did you draw this? Scared me half to death, 'cause I thought I'd done something wrong! He said this is what I like...then I started doing some work at the Eisenhower farm.'<sup>65</sup>*

West had signed the drawing, so General Eisenhower was able to identify the designer without too much difficulty. At Eisenhower's request, West worked both at Camp David and the farm. This arrangement lasted until 1960 when West was relieved of duties at Camp David and was assigned to work for a Lt. Commander Breen. It is thought that West continued to work some afternoons at the farm until 1963. As West saw it, his responsibilities were "to make the place as beautiful, as pleasant, so that

when he [Eisenhower] came to the farm it was strictly for him to have a complete rest and recreation....whatever it took to make the President happy."<sup>66</sup>

Although West never drew up any formal plans for the landscape, Eisenhower gave him a relatively free hand in deciding what to do on the property. Because of this easy working relationship, West thought "it was a pleasure working there 'cause it was like working for your own family." Some of West's ideas came from his own prior experience. However, he also had a professional relationship with a landscape architect in Washington. West would often use ideas and suggestions from this designer's work or his books, or call him occasionally for professional advice if there was a problem West could not resolve.<sup>67</sup>

West's crew at Eisenhower Farms consisted of two permanent men, Russell Baker, a retiree from the Pennsylvania roads department, and his son Charles, a World War II veteran. Other short-term employees included two other locals, Mr. Testerman and Mr. Stone, as well as several teenage boys who primarily helped out in the summers with the mowing or other odd jobs. The crew's work focused on the Farm #1 landscape, although occasionally they did work on the other farms. When the Eisenhowers were at the site, the men would often work seven days a week, eight to ten hours a day on the grounds. West said that when Eisenhower and his family were at the farm, "your full attention was at the farm, always...When the Eisenhower family wasn't there, this gives you opportunity to catch up on...things that had to be done pertaining to your family."<sup>68</sup>

West had anticipated he would only be assigned to the farm for a few years and his tour of duty would end in April 1956. However, General Eisenhower liked West's work and had different ideas, wanting to keep West on awhile longer. West recalled how Eisenhower asked him to stay. In September 1955, Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while vacationing in Denver. In November he returned to the farm for an extended recuperation.<sup>69</sup> As Eisenhower's car arrived from the airport, West was working on the entry road. Eisenhower instructed West to get in the car with him, and then Eisenhower asked "I want to know, will you stay with me as long as I'm President?" West agreed. After Eisenhower decided to run for a second term, he called West in and said "my constituents want me to run again. How's that stand between you and I?" West replied, "Well, if you get elected, look[s] like I'm hooked for another four



Figure 2.27. General Eisenhower and Walter West conversing on the rear terrace, 11 October 1958. (US Navy, EISE NHS files, #2518)

years.” West eventually stayed a few years longer than Eisenhower’s second term, leaving the farm for another assignment in May 1963.<sup>70</sup> (fig. 2.27)

### Area 1: Entry Gate and Drive

#### Renovation

After the Eisenhowers purchased Farm #1, the decision was made to keep the main entry in the same location as it had been during the Reddings’ ownership. The existing gravel drive ran north and south from the farm complex to Waterworks Road, now Millerstown Road. When the Eisenhowers began improvements to the farm, including the construction of their new home, plans were made to upgrade this existing entry drive. This would not only improve the aesthetics of the farm’s entry, but also provide for better security, discouraging the trespass of curious tourists.<sup>71</sup> Given the Eisenhowers’ notoriety, there was an offer by the state of Pennsylvania to upgrade Millerstown Road to provide a better approach for the Eisenhower Farms. In early 1953, Eisenhower was contacted by Donald P. McPherson, Jr., Pennsylvania State Senator for the farm’s

congressional district, who asked whether Eisenhower needed any special improvements to the state road leading to his property. Eisenhower thanked the Senator for his thoughtfulness, however, to avoid any impropriety he refused the offer. He replied to McPherson, “the question of any improvement to this particular highway should merit the same attention that is accorded to any highway in Pennsylvania and in the light of what is best for the entire community.”<sup>72</sup>

During renovations in 1954, the farm’s entry road was improved from its original rough grade and gravel surface. In order to provide for better drainage and a smoother approach, the entire road was re-graded, drain tiles were installed, and it was surfaced with asphalt. Mrs. Eisenhower did not like the dark color of typical asphalt; she preferred a lighter finish. So after the initial layer of asphalt was installed on the new roadbed, the contractor came back and applied a light colored chip-coat, creating an almost white surface.<sup>73</sup> The newly paved road extended from the entry gate, to the turnaround in front of the house. Two offshoots of the drive, one leading to the garage at the southern end of the barn, and another pullout just south of the main house, were also paved. Areas around the barn and milk house maintained a gravel surface. None of the farm roads east of the barn and house were paved at the time the initial entry road renovation was complete in mid-1954. However, by the late 1960s the farm lane leading from the entry drive past the orchard to the eastern fields had been paved with a bituminous surface.<sup>74</sup>

When designing the initial landscape plan for the Eisenhowers’ new home and grounds, Peaslee also developed a layout for the entry gate. The gate area not only provided a formal entry to the site, but it also provided the level of security that was needed for the Eisenhowers’ protection. According to correspondence, Eisenhower had originally desired to put large guns flanking the entry to provide a grand arrival to the farm. But due in part to Peaslee’s advice, Eisenhower decided against it, telling his friend Colonel Schulz “if Mr. Peaslee thinks that the guns should not be at the entrance, I do not have to get them.”<sup>75</sup> Instead, Peaslee’s entry design called for a new guardhouse, brick columns, electric entry gate, and ornamental landscaping. New wooden cross-board fencing was also added along Millerstown Road. It was constructed by a local man, Mr. R. Lauver.<sup>76</sup> The columns, fencing, and guardhouse were all painted white. (figs. 2.28, 2.29)



Historic photographs show these entry features were not completed until after construction on the entry drive was finished, sometime after August 1954. In March 1955, Nevins informed General Eisenhower of the construction progress. Nevins said West and his crew would “seed the areas on both sides of the hard road in the lane with the best grass seed as recommended by the County Agent.” He also indicated a strip of ground in the adjacent pasture that was disturbed when the electrical lines were installed to the entry guardhouse would be seeded. This indicates that the construction of the entry features was probably complete by spring 1955.<sup>77</sup> (figs. 2.30-2.33)



Figure 2.28. Entry gate to Farm #1, wooden fencing along Waterworks Road, now Millerstown Road, aerial view toward southwest, 18 November 1966. (Wayne O’Neil, US Army, EISE NHS files, #3037)

A final addition to the new columns provided the entry with a reference to local history. An anonymous donor presented the Eisenhowers with two copper and glass lanterns with eagle finials as a Christmas gift in December 1955. These lanterns were originally used in Gettysburg as gas street lights. Mounted atop the brick columns at the entry gate, the lanterns served to elegantly illuminate the arrival to the Eisenhower Farm.<sup>78</sup> (fig. 2.34)

After construction of the entry facilities in 1955, but sometime before 1960, a sign was added to the front entry to identify the Eisenhower property. The sign was created out of a wooden board, stained dark brown, with “The Eisenhower Farm” painted in white block lettering. The board was framed with two hames and hung from a whiffletree.<sup>79</sup> The sign was mounted on a four inch square wooden post approximately seven to eight feet off the ground, just next to the eastern brick column. By 1961, this sign had been removed. (fig. 2.34)

An additional wooden sign identifying the entry drive as a private road was installed during construction of the entry gate. This replaced an original sign that was at the entry before the gate was constructed, when there was only a chain across the drive. The original sign read “Private Property Keep Out,” but the later sign, which read “Private Road,” was a bit more cordial. The “Private Road” sign was originally located on the wooden fence approximately eight feet from the western brick column. Historic photographs show that it remained in this



Figure 2.29. Working on the wooden fence along Waterworks Road, now Millerstown Road, view east toward West Confederate Avenue, fall 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3141)

location until the early 1960s, but sometime thereafter it was moved to a position on the fence directly adjacent to the western column. (figs. 2.35-2.37)

The last addition to the entry gate during the Eisenhower years was a large boulder and plaque designating the farm as a National Historic Landmark. Since 1957, under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935, the National Park Service (NPS) had been conducting a National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings that were “exceptionally valuable in commemorating [the] nation’s history.” One element of this program included the recognition of each president through landmark designation of a site or structure that was “intimately



Figure 2.30. Entry gate to Farm #1 before renovations, view south, 1 August 1954. (US Navy, EISE NHS files, #2928)



Figure 2.31. Entry gate to Farm #1 after renovations, lamps have not been installed on columns, view south, 8 December 1955. (EISE NHS files, #2929)



Figure 2.32. Entry gate to Farm #1, view south, 8 September 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2827)



Figure 2.33. Entry gate to Farm #1, view north, 8 September 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2826)



associated with his past, such as a birthplace or a home.” By December 1964 twenty-five out of thirty-six presidents had been recognized through this program. That same month, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall sent a letter to General Eisenhower asking for his evaluation of the “site or building” having the “strongest historical identification with [Eisenhower’s] life and service.” Udall suggested three options, including Eisenhower’s birthplace in Denison, Texas, his family home in Abilene, Kansas, and the Gettysburg farm, but indicated Eisenhower may prefer to choose some other significant site.<sup>80</sup>

After much thought, Eisenhower decided on the Gettysburg farm, explaining to Udall:

*After some consideration I have come to the conclusion that our farmstead at Gettysburg would be the most suitable spot because it is the only home, truly ours, that has been acquired by us during almost*

*a half century of public service that has led us to many corners of the world. Another reason for so designating the Gettysburg home is because it lies on the edge of an area that has very great historic significance, the Battlefield of Gettysburg.*<sup>81</sup>

Over a year later, in June of 1966, Eisenhower sent a letter to George Hartzog, Jr., Director of the NPS, requesting “an appropriate certificate and bronze plaque designating [the farm] as historic property.” Eisenhower intended to display the plaque in “an appropriate area and hopefully in such a way as to discourage souvenir seekers.” He also indicated that although the farm would not be made open to the public, he would continue to maintain it “in a manner consistent with its historic character.”<sup>82</sup>

A plaque was provided, and in November 1966 it was installed at the entry to the farm. The plaque was mounted on a large boulder which had been taken



Figure 2.34. “Eisenhower Farms” sign and lantern on east column at the entry gates, ca. 1960. (EISE NHS files, #2156)

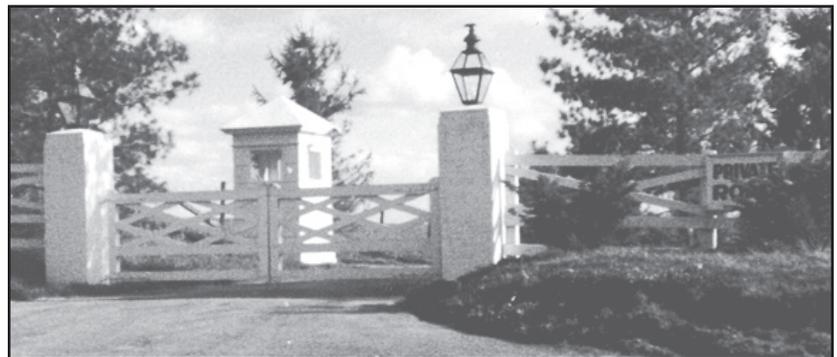


Figure 2.36. Entry gate in the early 1960s with “Private Road” sign on the fence away from the west column, left edge of photo, ca. 1961. (EISE NHS files, #2143)



Figure 2.35. Detail of “Private Property” sign before renovations, 1 August 1954. (US Navy, EISE NHS files, #2928)



Figure 2.37. Detail of “Private Road” sign adjacent to west column, 8 September 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2827)



Figure 2.38. The National Historic Landmark boulder and plaque are brought by helicopter to Farm #1, November 1966. (Abbie Rowe, NPS, EISE NHS files, #2945)



Figure 2.39. Detail of the National Historic Landmark plaque, May 1966. (Bud Dutton, NPS, EISE NHS files)

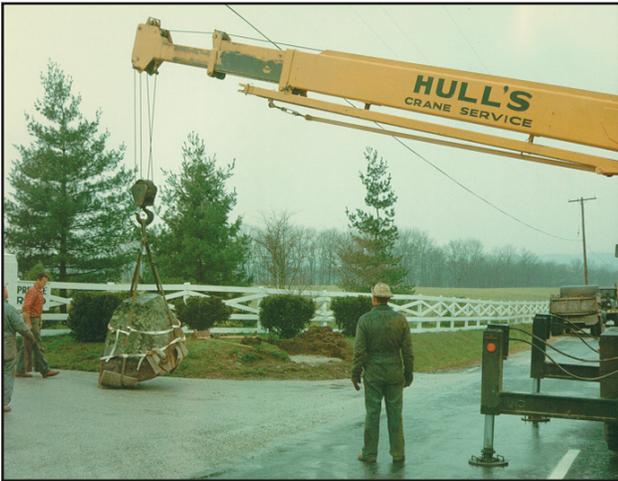


Figure 2.40. Setting the National Historic Landmark boulder and plaque at the entry gate, November 1966. (Abbie Rowe, NPS, EISE NHS files, #2946)



Figure 2.41. General Eisenhower shows the National Historic Landmark plaque to PA Congressman Richard Schweiker, ca. 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2763)

from nearby “Devil’s Den,” a site within the adjoining Gettysburg National Military Park.<sup>85</sup> The boulder and plaque were flown in by helicopter and placed just west of the entry gate, at a spot visible from Waterworks Road. (figs. 2.38-2.41)

### Fencing

During 1954, while construction was progressing on the entry road, the issue of fencing styles and location was a topic of discussion between Nevins and General Eisenhower. Decisions needed to be made concerning not only the fencing along the entry drive, but the fencing that would be used in the pastures and fields as well. Nevins made suggestions to Eisenhower concerning fencing types, placement, and paint colors. Eisenhower

in turn discussed the options with Mrs. Eisenhower and sent Nevins the following recommendations in October 1954:

*She [Mrs. Eisenhower] thinks that the boards on top of the posts give the fence too heavy an appearance – possibly, I should say, are too dominate where she would hope that the trees, cattle and pasture would be the features. Consequently, she feels that we should put in a fence of good solid posts, and merely paint the top of each a white color. She said nothing about the rest of the post, but I assume that it would be a good idea to paint it – say – a dark green. I think the fence itself could be constructed in one of two ways:*



(a) of the necessary strands of barbed wire (four or five, I suppose).

(b) some type of prepared fence, and assuming that it would not be of sufficient height [sic], to stretch on top of it at least one strand of barbed wire.

*The two items of utility – that is, exactly how tight do we have to make the fence, and the cost – would be important. I think that you can go ahead with plans for this type of fence immediately. Incidentally, it is possible that when we get up to the head of the lane – that is, where it makes a turn just short of the barn – we might want a second gate.*<sup>84</sup>

Later correspondence in November 1954 mentions a style favored by E. L. Berkey, Tompkins' construction foreman. Berkey suggested a six-wire fence, barbed wire on top, and posts coated with creosote. General Eisenhower reiterated Mrs. Eisenhower's idea of painting the top six inches of the posts white, saying they should "try two or three posts that way and see how it looks."<sup>85</sup>

Nevins suggested including two gates along the entry drive. This access would allow supervised stock grazing in the drive, providing an easy way to keep the grass clipped by the cattle. Eisenhower agreed with this suggestion along with Nevins' idea to set the fence approximately two feet back from the newly planted tree line. Eisenhower also mentioned that if a pasture was to be located on each side of the drive, then a gate should be located in each fence about halfway up the drive to allow the ease of transferring stock from one pasture to another.<sup>86</sup>

A decision was eventually made, and one of General Eisenhower's preferred options prevailed. Wooden post and woven wire fencing would be the primary style of fencing along the entry drive, as well as in the fields and pastures of Farm #1. Two of these fences were installed parallel the entry drive with a single strand of barbed wire along the top. The western fence contained a metal gate at the north end near the main gate to access the adjacent pasture.<sup>87</sup> Both fences were set back from the road's edge approximately twenty feet.<sup>88</sup> The eastern fence ran from the entry gate, along the entry drive, past the orchard, and ended at the farm lane leading to the eastern fields, just north of the barn. The western fence was not quite as long, running from the entry gate to just across from

the northern end of the orchard, where the entry drive made a slight curve to the west.

Mrs. Eisenhower's opinion about the "heaviness" of the boards across the top of the fence had prevailed and only a short section of the entry road fence contained this feature. The section of fence east of the road, running along the orchard and horse pasture to the horse watering area was capped in this way. This wooden cap was painted white and was used on all of the fencing surrounding the horse pasture. This detail prevented injury to the horses when they reached over the fence. All of the other entry road fencing consisted of only wire and wooden posts and did not have the wooden top rail.

A consensus was never reached on how the wooden posts should be painted. By the late 1960s, a variety of options existed along the entry drive. On the western side of the road, the posts were painted green for a short section near the entry gate and in the section directly across from the orchard. The middle section of fence had unpainted posts. The eastern fence had green posts at the orchard, unpainted posts in the middle section, and white posts near the entry gate. White posts were used in the fencing around the adjacent horse pasture.

### Entry Drive Allee

Prior to its re-grading and improvement, the entry drive was lined with several hemlocks (*Tsuga species*) that may have been installed during the Reddings' ownership. There was also one unidentified mature deciduous tree located at the entry gate on the western side of the road.<sup>89</sup> These previously existing trees were removed to allow for the entry drive improvements. (fig. 2.42)



Figure 2.42. Hemlocks along entry drive prior to renovations of the road, view to north, ca. 1955. (Walter West collection, EISE NHS files, #EE2016)



Figure 2.43a. Norway spruce alley and post and wire fencing along entry drive shortly after installation, view to north, 8 December 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3069)



Figure 2.43b. Detail of small brass plaque at the Norway spruce tree donated by the State of Oklahoma. (EISE NHS files, 3624#111)

In late 1954, West and his crew began to replant fifty-three Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) along the entry drive. These trees were a gift to the Eisenhowers from the Republican State Committees of each state and territory in the union. They were planted along both sides of the drive approximately 100 feet apart, centered between the road edge and the pasture fence. Each tree was marked with a small brass plaque, approximately three by four inches in size, noting which state had made the donation.<sup>90</sup> The trees were planted in a random order, not in any particular order of states. According to West, one of the reasons they were not installed in order was all of the holes were dug by hand, and “you always do the easy ones first....the hard ones you leave to last.... So as the trees went down, they were named. There was no significant method...or anything like that.”<sup>91</sup> (figs. 2.43a-b)

In the fall of 1955 crabapple trees (*Malus species*) were added to the entry drive. These trees were a birthday gift to Eisenhower from his cabinet members. Helen Weaver, a secretary at the White House, and Ann Whitman, Eisenhower’s personal assistant, coordinated this gift. They collected a total of \$640 from the sixteen cabinet members. A check was given to West for him to purchase fifty-three trees. Of course, a pink-flowering variety was chosen, Mrs. Eisenhower’s favorite color. Two crabapples were installed in the spaces between the spruce trees along both sides of the drive.<sup>92</sup>

In the thank you note to the cabinet members, Eisenhower expressed his sincere appreciation for the gift:

*But now I want you to know that Mamie and I are delighted at the promise of the flowering quince that will bloom in our lane this coming spring; We hope each of you coming to the farm will be able to share with us the beauty that your gift will provide, and we join in deep appreciation of your thoughtfulness.*<sup>93</sup>

Sometime after the crabapples were installed, white pines (*Pinus strobus*) were also added to the alley, probably in the mid-1960s. The 1955 plan shows the addition of white pines along the entry drive area directly west of the orchard, barn, and house. However pines do not appear in a 1960 photo of the main portion of the drive. (figs. 2.44, 2.45) Some white pines do appear in the alley on the 1969 plan. From this drawing, it appears the intent was to install one pine tree between each set of crabapples, creating a pattern along the alley of Norway spruce, crabapple, white pine, crabapple, Norway spruce. However, this pattern was not completed. Either the pines were never fully installed, or they had been planted and some had died. Other than these historic maps, no direct documentation describing the addition of these trees has been found, but one letter from General Eisenhower indicates he agreed with Peaslee’s early ideas about “thickening the trees along the lane.” The addition of the pines may have been an attempt to increase the density of the entry drive plantings until the spruce and crabapples matured.<sup>94</sup>

The entry drive became a favorite place for Eisenhower to walk on the farm, especially during his recuperation periods following each of his two heart attacks.<sup>95</sup> He would take daily walks down the lane, and have someone measure his progress along the pavement by painting a small line at the point where he would turn around. A



paint mixture of lime and cement was used to establish a semi-permanent reference mark for future walks.<sup>96</sup> Mrs. Eisenhower recalled how he would tell her of his progress, saying something like “well I went as far as Oregon today,” to indicate how far he had walked. Texas’ tree was nearest the gate, so when Eisenhower announced he had reached Texas, Mrs. Eisenhower knew he had walked the entire length of the entry drive and had gained back a considerable amount of his former strength.<sup>97</sup>

West indicated there was no special maintenance program for the trees along the entry drive. The crew would spray them with oil in the dormant season to prevent scale and occasionally prune a crossing branch, but otherwise they did not spend too much time maintaining the trees in these areas.<sup>98</sup> By the late 1960s, the entry allee had completely filled-in with mature Norway spruce, white pine, and crabapples.

### Additional Plantings

In addition to the trees along the entry drive allee, tree and shrub plantings were also installed at the main entry gate. The initial design for this area was likely based on Peaslee’s ideas of a formal entry. The 1955 plan shows two rows of trees, white pines and flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), installed in a semicircle directly behind the fence. There were no shrub plantings in front of the fence. This simplistic planting would have been in keeping with the formality Peaslee espoused.<sup>99</sup> (fig. 2.46)

As with other parts of the Farm #1 landscape, the entry gate planting was modified over the years. In 1957, a new planting plan was developed for the site by Boris Timchenko, a Washington landscape architect who had become acquainted with General Eisenhower through the National Capital Flower Show. After an



*Figure 2.44.*  
Norway spruce  
and crabapple allee  
along the entry drive,  
crabapples in bloom,  
view to the south, 28  
April 1960. (US  
Navy, EISE NHS  
files, #2145)



*Figure 2.45.*  
Norway spruce  
and crabapple allee  
along the entry drive,  
crabapples in bloom,  
view to the north, 28  
April 1960. (US  
Navy, EISE NHS  
files, #2144)



introduction at one of the shows, Timchenko offered to donate his design services to develop landscape plans for certain areas on Farm #1.<sup>100</sup> The plan he developed for the entry was less formal than the 1955 plan, and included plantings both in front of as well as behind the wooden fence. Along with his design for the entry gate, Timchenko also recommended the installation of red maples (*Acer rubrum*) between the existing Norway spruce along the entry drive alley. (fig. 2.47)

There is evidence that Timchenko's plan was at least partially implemented. By 1969, several of the plants he specified were still extant, including Washington hawthorne (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*) and white pine.<sup>101</sup> Additionally, a number of Hicks yew (*Taxus x media Hicksii*) had been planted at the base of the fence, maintaining Timchenko's design intent.<sup>102</sup> The red maples, however, were not installed along the alley.

But the 1969 conditions were not completely faithful to earlier plantings. Other modifications had been made to the site and several new species were extant that were not on the 1955 plan or Timchenko's 1957 plan. Purple

leaf Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea*) was located in front of the yew planting. Behind the fence some of the Washington hawthornes, white pines and flowering dogwoods remained from earlier plantings, but most had been lost. The rows were supplemented with the addition of red maple, sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), installed in a less formal pattern.<sup>103</sup> Many of these trees were drawn at nearly mature size on the 1969 plan, indicating they were probably installed in the early 1960s.

In November 1955, a number of Port Orford cedar trees (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) may have been installed along the property line and new fence at Water Works Road. These trees were a gift to the Eisenhowers from the Republicans of Pierce County, Oregon. In sending the 400-500 small trees to the farm, John Prins, Chairman of the group, wanted Eisenhower to establish a timber lot on the farm. He wrote, "Eventually - we know not when - you are going to be a farmer. Why not be a tree farmer? Timber is a crop!" When they arrived at the farm, the trees were approximately two years old and were about a foot tall. According to Prins, these trees would thrive

in the Pennsylvania climate, growing to be six feet tall in five years, and reaching "great majestic heights" when they fully matured in seventy years.<sup>104</sup> General Eisenhower was not interested in becoming a timber farmer, and it is unlikely that all of these trees were planted at the farm. However, correspondence between Eisenhower and Nevins indicates Eisenhower wanted some of the trees planted along the fence line from the Pitzer Schoolhouse property on the west to the edge of the Gettysburg National Military Park on the east. No additional documentation has been found concerning the planting of these trees. By 1967, only a few unidentified trees appear on the historical plan in the area where these cedars would have been planted. If indeed the entire property line had been planted, nearly all of them had died or been removed during the ensuing decade.<sup>105</sup>

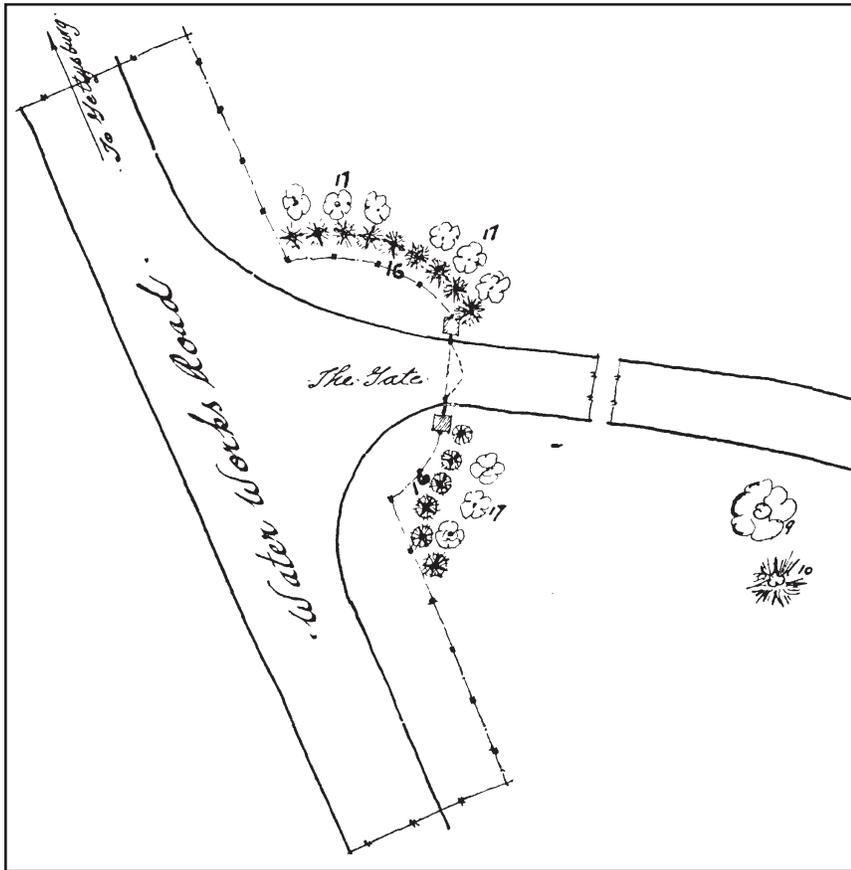


Figure 2.46. Detail of the entry gate planting from the 1955 plan, #9 and #17 are identified as flowering dogwoods, #10 and #16 are identified as white pines. (EISE NHS files)



In 1956, Sumpter T. Priddy, Jr., Vice President in Charge of International Relations for the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, proposed an idea for an additional tree planting in the same area. He suggested the Chamber and its affiliated international organizations provide General Eisenhower with a variety of trees. Eisenhower initially approved of both the idea and the suggestion to make the planting along Millerstown Road. Nevins concurred, but said that the trees would need to be outside the fence so the cattle would not harm them, and this might require approval from the highway commissioners. Eisenhower told Priddy he would be honored by the program, saying “if you do decide to go ahead with the project, I shall be delighted; but I want also to assure you that if you find too many difficulties inherent in it, I shall also understand if you decide to

abandon the whole thing.” Apparently there were indeed many difficulties with the project, as there is no record that it was ever implemented at the farm.<sup>106</sup>

Before the Eisenhowers’ renovations, the landscape on Farm #1 immediately west of the orchard, barn, and house had very few trees. The only specimens that remained in this area from the earlier farm landscape were the two black locusts, which were originally in front of the Redding home, and five other trees along the entry drive south and west of the home. At least four of these trees were saved during the Eisenhower renovations. The two black locusts were enclosed by a patch of lawn and encircled by the new driveway turnaround, and the other trees remained adjacent to the western edge of the new drive.<sup>107</sup>

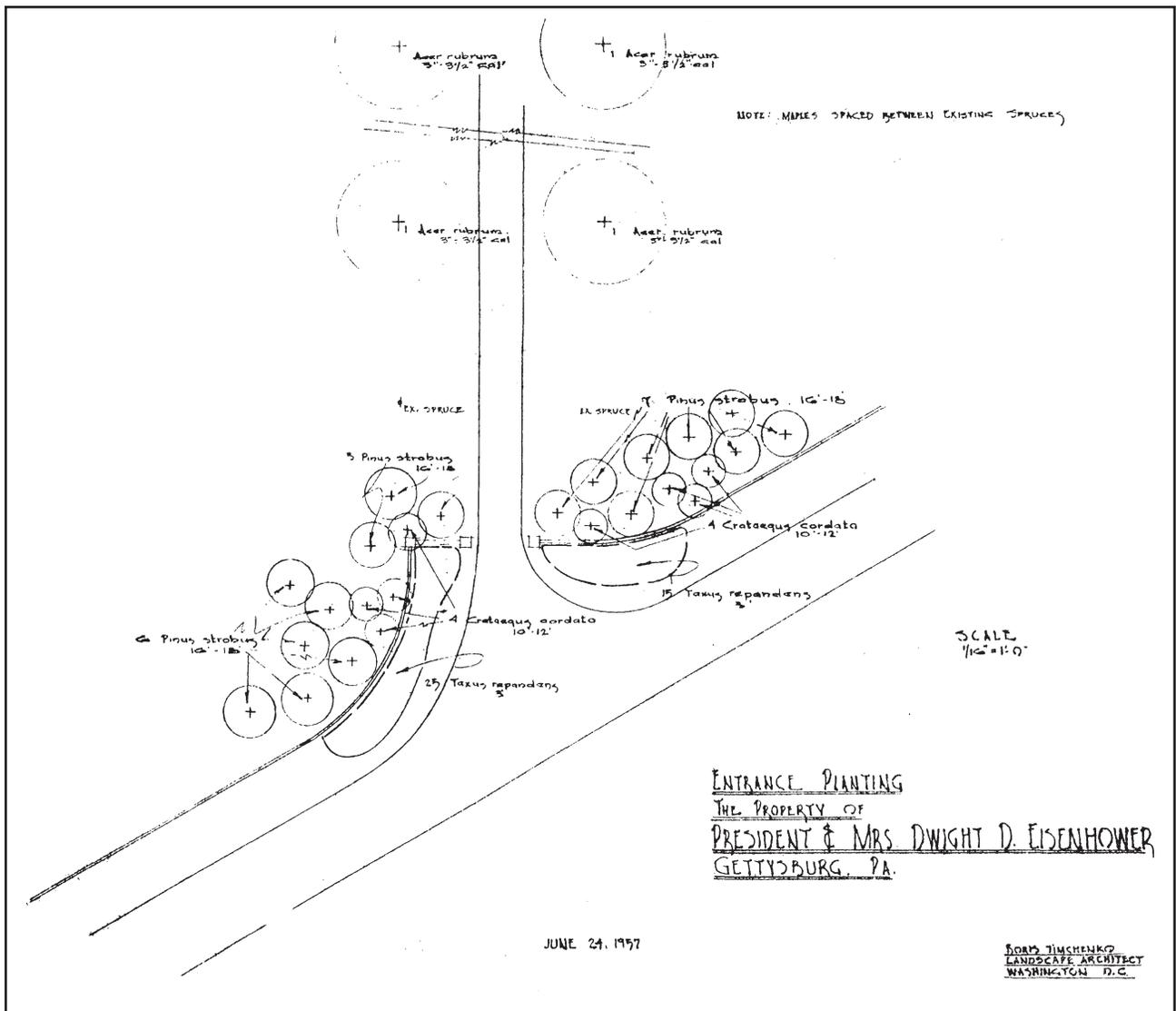


Figure 2.47. Boris Timchenko planting plan for the entry to Farm #1, 24 June 1957. (EISE NHS files)

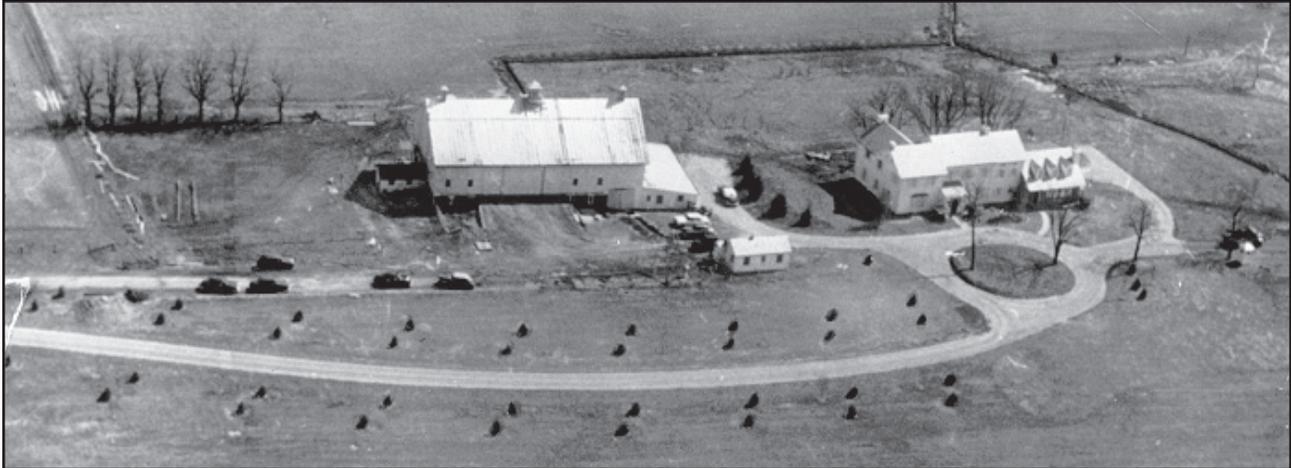


Figure 2.48a. Entry drive on Farm #1, newly planted trees along the drive, existing trees maintained in front of the new home, right of photo, aerial view from the west, ca. 1954-55. (EISE NHS files, #3411)

Initially, white pines were planted in a double row along each side of the entry drive as it passed west of the barn. Other trees and shrubs, including Norway spruce and dogwoods, were later installed along the western edge of the road adjacent to the field, as well as in the lawn area

between the road and barn both for ornamental value and screening purposes. The new plantings extended from the orchard to the turnaround directly in front of the house, covering a large expanse of open space. (fig. 2.48a) West developed an early plan to put a small circular shrub bed in the lawn circle, and it was installed in 1956. (fig. 2.48b)

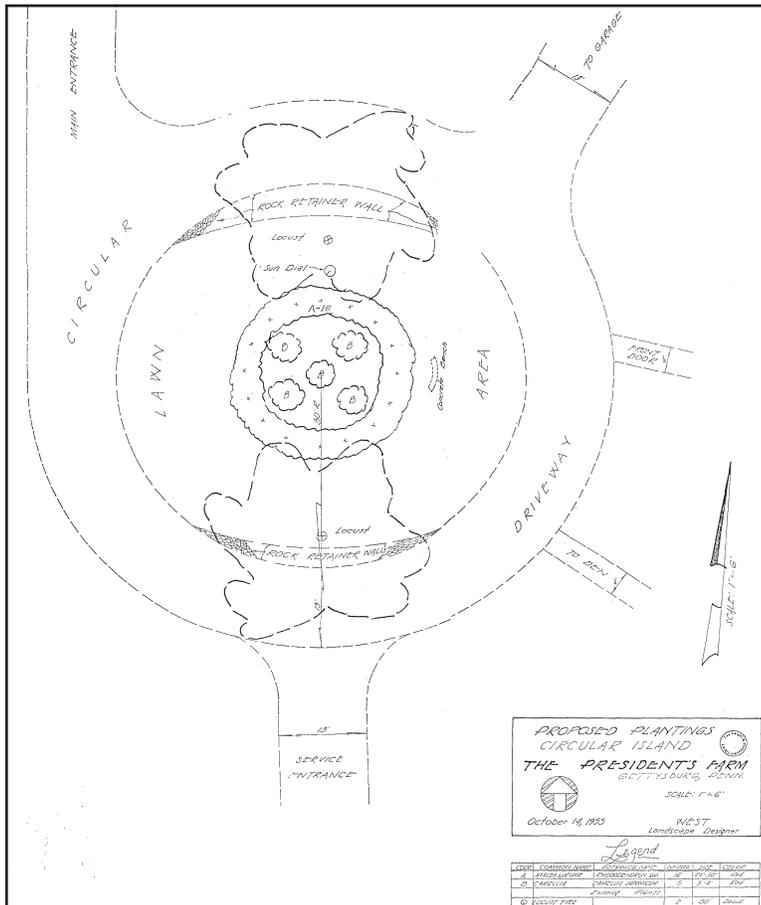


Figure 2.48b. Walter West proposed plan for lawn circle in entry drive, 14 October 1955. (EISE NHS files)

Many of the trees, shrubs, and flowers given to the Eisenhowers as gifts were used in this part of the landscape, including some of the earliest plantings installed by West and his crew. The first of these were probably flowering dogwoods and white pines shown on the 1955 plan as donations from Colonel and Mrs. G. Gordon Moore, Jr., Mrs. Eisenhower's sister and brother-in-law. Correspondence and other records document further vegetation donations eventually added to the entry drive area. As a result, by the late 1960s this area contained a wide variety of plant material in addition to the species represented in the alley and at the entry gate. Azalea (*Rhododendron species*), purple leaf beech (*Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea'*), purple leaf plum (*Prunus cerasifera*), and wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) were found along the drive and in the lawn directly west of the barn. While American holly (*Ilex opaca*), flowering dogwood, forsythia (*Forsythia ovata*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera species*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), and various daffodils (*Narcissus species*) and tulips (*Tulipifera species*) were planted along the drive west



and southwest of the house.<sup>108</sup> Appendix B provides a complete listing of the known tree and shrub donations given to General and Mrs. Eisenhower.

One tree species with a large number of references in the historic record is the flowering dogwood. This small understory tree was one of the Eisenhowers' favorites. Many were planted throughout the grounds during the initial landscaping and in succeeding years. The large numbers of flowering dogwoods mentioned in the correspondence indicates these trees were not only planted in the ornamental landscape surrounding the home, but they were also installed at other naturalistic locations around the farm. A March 1956 letter from Nevins to Eisenhower reveals two of these locations. The note states Nevins and West were going to install "some dogwood along the edge of the woods south of [the] house...and some more dogwood along the bank of the pond."<sup>109</sup>

Unfortunately flowering dogwoods never seemed to thrive in the local soil and climatic conditions, and there were repeated attempts to get them established. The earliest mention of a planting was in February 1955, when General Eisenhower gave West a check for \$175 to use to purchase fifty flowering dogwood trees from a local nursery to be planted by Berkey. The Colonel and Mrs. Moore's donation for the entry drive planting occurred around this time or a little earlier. In fall of 1955, Senator Louis F. Goldstein of Maryland donated fifty flowering dogwoods from Calvert Co., Maryland to honor the county's Tercentenary Celebration. In early 1956, several other trees, both white and pink flowering varieties, were provided by Princeton Nurseries of Princeton, New Jersey, also for the entry drive area. Three other donations have been documented as gifts to the Eisenhowers by individual friends and admirers.<sup>110</sup>

Other flowering dogwood plantings have been mentioned in various oral histories. Mrs. Eisenhower recalled a planting of six flowering dogwoods across from the house in the early 1960s. The trees, located on the eastern side of the windbreak west of the house, were installed by groundsman Bill Woodward and were planted to represent individual members of the Eisenhower family. By the early 1970s, two of these had died and the original benefactor had inquired with Woodward about providing replacements.<sup>111</sup> Mrs. Eisenhower did not indicate who the donor was.

### Windbreak

Just west of the driveway turnaround in the front entry area, West and his crew worked on one of the last major planting projects undertaken during the initial landscaping. This project was the installation of a windbreak of trees between the front drive and the western fields, directly in front of the house in 1955 or early 1956.<sup>112</sup> According to Mrs. Eisenhower, this planting was needed because the winds would "come right off the mountains," and in adverse winter weather, this would often deposit "as much as six feet of snow in that driveway...it would drift so terribly."<sup>113</sup> In order to alleviate this, a double row of white pines was planted as a wind buffer. These trees were twelve to fifteen feet tall when planted.<sup>114</sup>

Approximately one year after the white pines were installed, sometime in 1957, West and his crew added a privet hedge along the western side of the windbreak to provide additional protection from the elements. This hedge was originally located on the north and east sides of the Redding chicken house before the renovations on Farm #1. During the renovations Mrs. Eisenhower told West she would like to keep that hedge. So when it was removed from the chicken house, West temporarily heeled it in near the Quonset Hut, east of the barn, until it could be used elsewhere. Since there was not enough of the original hedge to span the length of the windbreak West acquired additional hedge from Farm #3. Once established, the hedge's height was maintained at approximately four-and-a-half feet.<sup>115</sup>

Although the installation of the windbreak and hedge blocked views of the distant mountains from the house, the benefits of sheltering the site from the prevailing winds were more important to General and Mrs. Eisenhower. The windbreak not only provided protection during the winter from chilling winds and drifting snow, but it also helped to keep dust and debris from blowing into the front lawn and driveway during the harvest season.<sup>116</sup> (fig. 2.49)

Additional trees continued to be added to the windbreak. Many of the original white pines did not survive and were replaced in the early 1960s.<sup>117</sup> By the late 1960s there was a row of nine Chinese elms (*Ulmus parvifolia*) added to the windbreak, west of the privet hedge. No documentation has been found to establish when these were installed,



Figure 2.49. Winter view of the entry drive with windbreak southwest of the house, aerial view toward the south, ca. 1960s. (Robert Hartley Collection, EISE NHS files, #3102)



Figure 2.50. White House helicopter at the helipad, November 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2506)

however their size on the 1969 existing conditions plan shows a canopy spread of approximately fifteen feet, indicating they may have been less than ten years old and were probably planted in the early 1960s.

### Helipad

While General Eisenhower was President, a helicopter was often the chosen mode of transportation used to shuttle him between Washington and the farm. This necessitated the installation of a helipad somewhere on the farm. The area chosen was just west of the front drive, across from the house, in the western field. (fig. 2.50) The helipad did not have a hard surface, but was

simply a mown area where the grass was kept about one-and-a-half to two inches high. Its outline was identified by markers placed at the four corners. Security lighting was provided by mercury vapor lamps with 500 watt bulbs. These were installed along the tree line between the entry drive and the field. Extra room was often needed for two helicopters. To accommodate this, West and his crew would mow an additional space nearby. West recalled that the mowing equipment was always ready to go and if they got a radio call telling them that the helicopters were on the way, they would have the area mowed before they arrived. Two paths were usually mowed from the helipad to the entry drive with one pass of a fifty-inch-wide mower. The first one led towards the front entry of the house, and was used primarily by Eisenhower. The second led towards the barn and was used by the Secret Service to access their offices. Eisenhower's path was kept mowed extra short, at three-quarters of an inch. The other path was maintained at the same height as the rest of the helipad. This two-path arrangement was primarily for Eisenhower's convenience, preventing him and his accompanying entourage from being crowded onto one small path through the grass.<sup>118</sup>

### Small-scale Features

Several small-scale features were initially located in the front drive area in addition to items previously mentioned at the entry gate, including a south guardhouse, hitching post, sundial, concrete bench, security lighting, small stone retaining walls, and birdhouses. Most of these items date to the original construction period of 1954-55. However, some features were added or moved from their original locations during the Eisenhower period of ownership.

#### Concrete Bench and Gold Sundial

In the circle of lawn directly in front of the house, an elaborate sundial with a gold-colored face and concrete bench were placed between the existing locust trees. The sundial, a gift from the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, was presented to General and Mrs. Eisenhower in May 1955. The face of the dial contained an engraving of the latitude and longitude of the farm as well as a poetic verse describing "time."<sup>119</sup> The sundial and bench were both placed in this location soon after the Eisenhowers received them and remained there until the early 1960s. By 1963, photographs show the bench and sundial were moved to another location, probably



Figure 2.51. Original location of bench and sundial in lawn circle west of house, 1 July 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3221)

the eastern side of the pine windbreak, directly across from the home's front entry. Both items are shown in the latter location on the 1967 plan. (figs. 2.51-2.53)

#### South Guardhouse

During initial renovations, a guardhouse was constructed south of the main house along the road between Farm #1 and Farm #2 for the Secret Service detail. The building was located on the western side of the driveway near the parking slip where the pavement ended. (fig. 2.54) The wooden structure was the same style as the entry gate guardhouse and provided the agents with a secure post to observe the south and west fields. During the presidency, this guardhouse and the others on the farm were manned when General Eisenhower was on site. Additionally, there were three men stationed around the house, and one or more men in the Secret Service office at the milk house on the north side of the barn. The guardhouses were considered posts for "special officers." These were agents whose primary responsibility was to guard the property. "Special agents" had the duty of guarding people. During the White House years, the special agents traveled back and forth with the president from the White House to the farm. But as Secret Service agent James McCown recalled "very seldom would a special officer leave with the principals if we went somewhere. It would just be the special agents. The special officers stayed here all the time, twenty-four hours a day." Special officers took care of the property; special agents took care of the people.<sup>120</sup>

The south guardhouse was moved to the back lane when Nevins Lane was installed in 1956 and remains there today. It was replaced by a glass telephone booth on a concrete



Figure 2.52. Bench and sundial were relocated by the early 1960s, 26 September 1963. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2820)

pad which was installed southeast of the parking slip. This glass telephone booth remained until Eisenhower left office in 1961 at which time it was removed. The concrete pad remains today.



Figure 2.53. Gold sundial. (EISE NHS files, "Gift Books")

General Eisenhower was without any form of protection from January 1961 until October 1963 when the Pennsylvania State Police offered to provide an officer during daytime hours. This was a response to various people coming on the property such as disgruntled veterans wanting to see the General or souvenir seekers taking things from the property.

In 1965, as a result of stepped-up national security after the assassination of President Kennedy, a Secret Service detail was reassigned to the Eisenhower Farm on the recommendation of President Johnson and Congress' approval. The new detail resumed their previous routine and once again used the location of the south guardhouse as a post. However, the post was now in a chair under the tree or in a car parked on the driveway instead of a guardhouse. A second larger guardhouse was constructed around 1970, on the same concrete pad where the original had been. This new building was well-supplied with a telephone, radio equipment, desk, heater, an air conditioner, and lighting. In fact, much of the equipment used on the farm by this second detail was more updated than it had been when Eisenhower was



Figure 2.54. Original location of guardhouse southwest of the Eisenhower home, aerial view toward northeast, spring 1955. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2990)



Figure 2.55. Hitching post. (EISE NHS files, "Gift Books")



Figure 2.56. Security lighting at the front entry drive. (Photo by OCLP, 2002)



Figure 2.57. Lawn circle west of home prior to installation of the stone retaining walls, home nearing completion, 11 December 1954. (EISE NHS files, #3144) Figure 2.51 shows retaining wall soon after installation.

in office, including closed circuit television surveillance, metal detectors, and electronic gates. McCown recalled the agents "used to joke about the fact that we had more security equipment out here after he was out of the presidency than we had when he was president...when he was president, none of this stuff had been invented or used in the protection of someone."<sup>121</sup>

### Hitching Post

A hitching post was presented to General and Mrs. Eisenhower in July 1955 as a wedding anniversary gift by Colonel and Mrs. Moore. The hitching post consisted of an iron horse-head with two metal rings mounted atop a wooden post. Documentation for this feature indicates that it was originally mounted in the front of the house near the driveway, in the same location as the "tree branch" shaped hitching post extant today.<sup>122</sup> (fig. 2.55)

### Security Lighting

Security lighting was installed along the edge of the western field by the Secret Service as part of the security system at the farm. The spotlights had a rectangular head and were mounted on metal poles approximately two to three feet off the ground with the lamp facing into the field. Their placement at the base of tree trunks helped to disguise the lights and prevented them from being too obtrusive in the landscape. Five of these lights were installed along the entry drive, two at the helipad area, and another three along the western side of the pine windbreak. These lights remained in place throughout the Eisenhowers' occupancy of the farm.<sup>123</sup> (fig. 2.56)

### Stone Retaining Walls

When the new driveway turnaround was installed, the original grade was lowered slightly. In order to protect the roots of the existing locust trees, two small stone retaining walls were constructed to retain the soil and allow for the cut into the grade. One wall was placed on the northern side, and the other on the southern side. Fieldstones were placed along the cut at a slant, leaning into the small slope, and the walls tapered toward the ends to meet the new grade. Although no written documentation has been found concerning these features, historic photographs reveal the walls were



TABLE 2.2  
SMALL-SCALE FEATURES, AREA 1: ENTRY GATE AND DRIVE

Item	Source	Date Acquired	Original Location	Status 1967 - 69
Birdhouses	Installed by grandson, David Eisenhower	ca. 1954–55	Western windbreak	Unknown
Concrete bench	National Capital Flower and Garden Show	1955	Front lawn circle, between trees	Extant, second location
Guardhouse, entry	Added during entry gate construction	Between August 1954 and March 1955	Entry gate	Extant
Wooden Guardhouse and Glass Guardhouse, south	Wooden Guardhouse added during initial home construction, replaced by Glass Guardhouse	Wooden Guardhouse ca. 1954–55, relocated to Back Lane ca. 1956; replaced with Glass Guardhouse, ca. 1956, removed ca. 1960, rebuilt ca. 1970	Wooden Guardhouse on west side of path between Farm #1 and #2, south of house. Glass Guardhouse on east side of path	Wooden Guardhouse extant at second location, only concrete pad of Glass Guardhouse remains
Horse head hitching post	Gift of Col. and Mrs. G. Gordon Moore, Jr.	July 1955	Front of House, near driveway	Replaced with tree hitching post, date unknown
Lanterns, two copper and glass with eagle finials	Gift of anonymous donor through Mr. Patrick McClary, Huntley, IL	December 1955	Atop brick columns at entry gate	Extant
National Historic Landmark plaque	Designated and placed by the United States government	November 1966	Entry gate, west side	Extant
Sign, “Eisenhower Farm”	Unknown	Between 1955 and 1960	Next to eastern column at entry gate	No longer extant, removed by 1961
Sign, “Private Road”	Unknown	ca. 1954–55	On fence next to western column at entry gate	No longer extant
Security lighting	Secret Service	ca. 1954–55	Western field edge, along driveway treeline	Extant
Stone retaining walls	Added during driveway construction	Between December 1954 and July 1955	North and south sides of front lawn circle	Extant
Sundial, gold	Gift of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors	May 1955	Front lawn circle between locust trees	Extant, second location
Tree plaques identifying donor states	Donated with the spruce trees by states	ca. 1954	At base of trees in entry drive alley	Some extant
Walkways, to front of home	Added during initial home construction	ca. 1954–55	From front door to driveway, from office door to driveway	Extant

installed between December 1954 and July 1955 and remained in place throughout the Eisenhower period. (fig. 2.57)

### Walkways

Two flagstone walkways were added during the initial construction to connect the entry drive with the home’s two front doors. One walk was a straight path from the

drive to the main door, and the other was a short curving walk providing access to the office door. Both walks were extant in the late 1960s.

Table 2.2 provides a comprehensive list of the small-scale features located at the entry gate and drive. The status of each feature at the end of the Eisenhowers’ ownership period is indicated.



## Area 2: Main House

### Lawns

As typical of the landscape style of the time, the lawn was an important feature of the ornamental landscape at the Eisenhower Farm. The careful maintenance of a healthy, weed-free lawn was a sign of a well-maintained and orderly home in the 1950s and 1960s. In keeping with this idea, a large amount of turfgrass was installed during the initial landscaping in 1954-55. Turfgrass was planted along the entry alley, in the front entry drive area, adjacent to the front of the home, and along its sides. However, the largest single expanse of lawn was installed on the eastern side of the house. Approximately three-quarters of an acre of turfgrass was used in this area, extending from the rear of the home to the eastern field, and from the barn on the north to the greenhouses and garden on the south. (fig. 2.58)

The historic record does not indicate what types of turfgrass were initially used at the farm to establish the ornamental lawns. Given General Eisenhower's interest in the latest agricultural trends, it is likely that he and Nevins consulted the local county agents for appropriate turfgrass recommendations and followed this advice. Records do indicate several different types of grass were donated to the Eisenhowers for use at the farm throughout their ownership. Sometimes a small quantity would be given for a trial plot to determine if that particular species would perform well in the local climate. Two such donations are recorded through

correspondence. The first is a spring 1955 shipment of 100 pounds of Kentucky fescue #31 seed (*Festuca rubra* 'Kentucky 31'), given to Eisenhower by Lee and Clyde Creech of Pineville, Kentucky, and the second is an August 1956 shipment of Meyer Z-52 zoysia grass plugs (*Zoysia japonica* 'Meyer Z-52') from A. Kiefer Mayer of Indianapolis, Indiana. The Kentucky fescue was primarily used at that time as a pasture grass, so it was likely intended for the fields surrounding the home. Nevins indicated that the County Agent did not think the fescue had much promise to provide a permanent pasture at the farm, but they tried out a small plot to see for themselves. It is unknown where this test plot was located. Zoysia grass was typically used as an ornamental turfgrass and would have probably been used on the lawns surrounding the home. However, it has not been determined if the zoysia was ever planted.<sup>124</sup>

Although Mrs. Eisenhower was not considered by many to be an "outdoor person," she enjoyed looking out to the landscape adjacent to her home and was determined that the surrounding lawns be weed-free. She was particularly unforgiving about dandelions, and whenever she saw them, she would often have the grounds workers hand dig them from the lawn. According to Art Kennell, the maintenance foreman at the Gettysburg Country Club who often provided grounds assistance at the farm, "she was strict with the people that cut out dandelions. She would watch over them closely and make sure that they got the total root out. She felt and knew that if you didn't get the whole root you wouldn't kill the plant."<sup>125</sup> James McCown recalled that Mrs. Eisenhower "used to



Figure 2.58. Workers installing the eastern lawn, October 1954. (UPI/AP photo, EISE NHS files, #2200)



be real tough on dandelions,” and they would often have “Dandelion of the Week” to see who could dig up the largest weed.<sup>126</sup> In an effort to combat Mrs. Eisenhower’s nemesis in the lawn, West’s crew would both hand-pull and spot-treat the dandelions with a herbicide. This routine maintenance was performed on all the lawn areas on Farm #1 from the house to the front entry gate.<sup>127</sup>

Additional maintenance included two annual applications of fertilizer, one around the first of March and another near the end of September. A soil test was always performed when applying the fertilizer to ensure the correct amount was applied. In addition to the fertilizer, the lawn was limed as needed according to the soil test results. Dolomitic lime mixed with the fertilizer was spread during one application.<sup>128</sup>

The lawn was partially irrigated by an automatic system. It was installed on the rear of the main house, covering the lawn from the east rose garden to the flagpole. The front lawn and the shrub beds were not included in the system. These areas relied on natural irrigation, even during the hottest periods. Hand watering was only used on the shrubs until they became established, then it was stopped.<sup>129</sup>

#### Vegetation at Front Entry/North and South Sideyards

As revealed on the 1955 landscape plan, the form of the Eisenhowers’ landscape was heavily influenced by prevailing post-World War II design trends. Even though the home was in a rural setting, the landscape design contained elements more commonly used during the 1950s in suburban neighborhoods and new home construction. The formalization of the front entry as well as the concentration of private spaces to the rear of the property, or “backyard,” were timely suburban design patterns that were incorporated into this site. The placement of trees and shrubs around the home reinforced this design style. Foundation plantings at the front entry were low-key and served to enhance the public arrival space and complement the home’s formality. Large trees and shrubs placed in prominent locations served as accents in the landscape, both framing the architecture of the home and providing shade and screening from the elements. In the private spaces to the rear of the home, “outdoor rooms” were created with stone walkways, grassy terraces, and shrub borders. These “rooms” provided a physical tie between the home and its surrounding landscape, extending the home’s living



Fig. 2.59. Installation of elm with a large tree spade north of house. (Walter West collection, EISE NHS files, #1123)

space and providing the Eisenhowers with opportunities for outdoor entertaining. The home’s landscape design called for an abundance of new vegetation. This was provided both from the Eisenhowers’ own resources and a number of generous donations from their friends and supporters.

The most prominent plantings used in the home’s public entry spaces were several large trees. A sugar maple (*Quercus saccharum*) and a pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) were installed slightly south and west of the home, just east of the driveway. A large white pine was placed south of the Dutch oven, and an American elm (*Ulmus americana*) was installed in the lawn north of the house, between the house and barn. (fig. 2.59) The installation of these four trees was made possible by a generous gift from the Eisenhowers’ friend Nelson A. Rockefeller. Each of these specimens was installed during the 1954-55 initial landscaping of the home and appear on the 1955 plan. They were all large specimens when transplanted, providing an immediate sense of age to the newly installed landscape. Because of their size, each had to be installed with a mechanical tree spade. References to these donations include the record on the 1955 plan, several historic photographs showing the trees being installed, and a brief mention by Mrs. Eisenhower of Rockefeller’s donations in a later interview. There has been no other documentation found that provides the specific details of these donations. West recalled that one or more of the trees may have been transplanted from another location on Farm #1 or Farm #2.<sup>130</sup> Given West’s recollections and the lack of sufficient documentation, it is unclear if Rockefeller paid for both



Fig. 2.60. Mrs. Eisenhower and a guest in the north lawn, large elm to the right planted in the early 1960s as a replacement for the original tree. (Barbara Eisenhower, EISE NHS files, #1367)

the cost of the trees and their installation, or just the cost of their relocation with the tree spade.

By 1969, all of these large trees were still extant except the original elm. General Eisenhower was especially fond of the elm and was insistent about having one on the farm, even with the constant threat of Dutch elm disease. West recalled going to extensive measures to try and maintain the elm and prevent its demise. After its installation, the tree was regularly sprayed with a preventative solution of fifty percent malathion, the recommended treatment of the day, and monitored closely for any sign of stress. Eventually, however, the tree succumbed to the disease and had to be removed. West remembered the event, but could not recall at what date it occurred, however it may have been in the early 1960s since he left the Eisenhower Farm after this time. There is an elm shown on the 1969 plan at the original



Figure 2.61. Holly in front of the home, near the kitchen entry, soon after installation, 1 July 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3221)



Figure 2.62. Only one holly extant, north tree missing, ca. 1959. (EISE NHS files, #1479)



Figure 2.63. Two hollies present in front of home, 28 September 1963. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2820)



Figure 2.64. Shrubs along front of home, 3 June 1955. (EISE NHS files, #1607)

location, and a 1977 photograph shows an elm with a considerable sized trunk in the same spot. This elm was probably planted in the early 1960s as a replacement for the original tree.<sup>131</sup> (fig. 2.60)

Along with the large trees, two smaller American hollies (*Ilex opaca*) were planted in the front lawn. These trees and fifty white pines, were presented to the Eisenhowers by the Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association in October 1954. The gift was celebrated at a ceremony on the farm on Arbor Day, October 7. The event marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Association and served to welcome the Eisenhowers to their new Pennsylvania home.<sup>132</sup> According to historic photographs, the hollies were fairly mature when they were installed and were already approaching twenty feet in height. Both trees appear on the late 1960s plans, however the northern specimen may not have been the original plant. A photograph taken circa 1959 clearly shows the plant south of the entry, but the other holly is missing. Apparently, the original northern tree had died within a few years of planting. It was replaced with a similar sized specimen in the early 1960s. A 1963 photograph shows two hollies, the original to the south of the front door and the replacement to the north. Both specimens were approximately the same size at this time. (figs. 2.61-2.63)

During the mid-1950s, several shrubs were installed both along the home's southern foundation adjacent to the Dutch oven and the western foundation flanking the front entry. In the fall of 1954, two Hicks yews (*Taxus x media 'Hicksii'*) were donated to Eisenhower by Anthony L. Roman and the people of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania. These shrubs were planted on each side



Figure 2.65. Shrubs along front of home, 6 May 1959. (New York Herald, EISE NHS files, #1609)

of the oven. A climbing rose (*Rosa spp.*) provided by an anonymous donor was planted at the base of the oven and trained to grow up and over the bricks. Three large common boxwoods (*Buxus sempervirens*), a gift from the White House staff, were also installed around the same time.<sup>133</sup>

One of these was used on the southwest corner of the home, with the others placed on each side of the main entry. Also near the main entry, along the foundation, two beds containing several rhododendron and azalea specimens were installed. The rhododendrons were from anonymous donors while the azaleas were given by the 1954 National Capital Flower and Garden Show in Washington, DC. Additional shrubs were added to the western foundation along General Eisenhower's study in the fall of 1955. These boxwoods and yews were a birthday gift for Eisenhower from the Small Business Administration, who specified their placement near the entrance of the study "according to the landscape plan at Gettysburg."<sup>134</sup> (figs. 2.64-2.66)

Most of these original shrub plantings were extant in the late 1960s and continued to thrive in their locations. The exceptions to this were the azaleas, rhododendrons,



Figure 2.66. Political cartoon illustrating how the Eisenhowers received many of their trees and shrubs, including this anniversary gift from the White House Staff, 1 July 1959. (Earl Chesney, EISE NHS files, #1905)



Figure 2.67. Front of the Eisenhower home with early shrub plantings, ca. 1959. (EISE NHS files, #1479)



Figure 2.68. Front of the Eisenhower home with shrub plantings removed, 26 September 1963. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2820)



Figure 2.69. Front of the Eisenhower home, symmetrical plantings of boxwoods and yews flanking front door, January 1966. (Eisenhower family collection, EISE NHS files, #3440)

and climbing rose. By 1963, both azalea/rhododendron beds had been removed from the entry plantings. (figs. 2.67, 2.68) The climbing rose appeared on the 1967 plan, but was no longer extant by 1969. West recalled that the original plant was killed during a hard freeze around 1959. Although he did not remember a new planting after this, the notation on the 1969 plan shows a replacement plant had indeed been installed, possibly after West's departure in the early 1960s. Two additional yews were planted along the western facade sometime between September 1963 and January 1966. One was located north of the main entry, beneath the living room bay window, and the other was placed south of the entry, creating a symmetrical planting of boxwood and yew on each side of the front door. Historic photographs show these plants clearly in 1966, but only the northern plant survived to be noted on the 1969 plan. It was identified as a dwarf English yew (*Taxus baccata 'Repandens'*). It is unknown if these were donated plants or purchased by the Eisenhowers as additions to the landscape.<sup>135</sup> (fig. 2.69)

On the edge of the driveway extension, south of the house, a small embankment sloped down toward the southern field. At the top of this small slope a line of trees and shrubs was installed, running parallel with the southern facade of the home. The plantings extended from the large pin oak on the west to the eastern edge of the driveway extension. The 1955 plan shows one flowering dogwood with the rest of the area obscured. However, the 1969 plan shows three ten inch caliper cherries (*Prunus species*), a small white pine, and four forsythia planted along the embankment. The size of the cherries indicates these may have also been installed during the initial landscaping or soon after. It is unknown when the pine and forsythia were added.<sup>136</sup>

#### Sunporch and Rear Terrace

Probably the most used room in the newly renovated Eisenhower home was the enclosed porch. While in residence at the farm, much of General and Mrs. Eisenhower's time was spent in this room watching television, playing cards, reading, or painting. Although it came to be a cherished and much used spot, an enclosed porch had not been included in the initial house design. Originally, the rear porch was designed with a covered portion on the north end, called the "Veranda," and a small open flagstone terrace on the south end. After a short time, possibly while construction on the house was still in progress, Mrs. Eisenhower decided they needed a "little place to go that's your own, like a den or something." Realizing the upstairs sitting room was too small for this, she had the "Veranda" enclosed with glass doors to create a porch, leaving the open terrace as it was.<sup>137</sup>

When General Eisenhower returned to the farm to recuperate after his first heart attack in the fall of 1955, Mrs. Eisenhower decided to expand the enclosed porch to include the small open terrace. Her idea was that her husband could use this larger space during his days of



recovery. By November 1955, the additional space was enclosed and the porch soon became one of the most lived-in rooms in the house. Eisenhower would often say, “we don’t need but two rooms, our bedroom and the porch.”<sup>138</sup> (figs. 2.70, 2.71)

General Eisenhower further expressed his feelings about the porch’s significance, especially during their later retirement years, in a passage from *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*:

*And we have learned, too, that one room can constitute a home. All the others are hardly more than support or embellishment. At Gettysburg, the important room is a glassed-in porch, not much larger than a modest living room, where we spend hours from early breakfast to late evening. Facing east, with the morning sun brightening it and in shadow through the heat of a summer day, the furnishings casual and designed for comfort, both Mamie and I find it an oasis of relaxation. I don’t expect that we will ever again attempt to build a house. Were we to do so, I think it would be built around such a porch.*<sup>139</sup>

A natural extension of the porch was the rear terrace of lawn directly adjacent to the eastern side of the house. By raising the existing grade up to the level of the new porch, and creating a level terrace extending from the house, both the porch and home became more closely connected with the farm’s surrounding landscape. The construction of the terrace was included in the initial home design, even before the porch was enclosed. Undoubtedly the intention was to establish a connection between the landscape and the home by creating an “outdoor room” in this private space on the home’s rear facade. However, the terrace was never really used in this way on a consistent basis by the Eisenhowers. Although they spent innumerable hours on the porch, relatively little time was spent outdoors on the terrace lawn. General and Mrs. Eisenhower would occasionally stroll on the terrace in the evenings to inspect the flowers, and use it as a gathering spot when guests visited, but they hardly ever used the terrace as a sitting area for just the two of them.<sup>140</sup> The rear terrace functioned more as a visual connection with the landscape than the designer’s intended use as an “outdoor room.”

This “visual connection” was enhanced by the background of the surrounding farm scene. Mrs. Eisenhower



Figure 2.70. Rear of the Eisenhower home prior to the enclosed porch addition, October 1954. (EISE NHS files, #2804)



Figure 2.71. Rear of Eisenhower home after installation of the enclosed porch, November 1955. (EISE NHS files, #2129)

considered the adjacent fields as vistas to be enjoyed from the house. As with her preference for pristine lawns, she often expected the farm scenes to be unblemished also. John Eisenhower recalled how the cattle were often forbidden to graze in the eastern field because of the “untidy” appearance that followed, saying,

*Dad used to let the Angus feed in the nearby field across what they call Nevins Boulevard and these cattle would make their droppings ...and then of course the next year with that fertile soil, you’d have these green clumps. Well, Mother didn’t like that. She didn’t like these green clumps out there that would ruin the scenery and so the cattle were forbidden to feed in that particular field...because of Mother’s view.*<sup>141</sup>

Construction of the rear terrace was one of the initial jobs West and his crew undertook when the new home was under construction during 1954. The first task completed was the installation of the stone retaining wall. The wall was built with local “red slag rock” that West and his men gathered from the nearby fields. They also may have used some of the stones saved from the foundation of the Redding house. The finished wall ran north and



Figure 2.72. Rear terrace retaining wall shortly after installation, workmen installing turfgrass, October 1954. (EISE NHS files, #2804)

south, parallel to the home's eastern facade, and was located approximately sixty feet east of the house. It was approximately one hundred and fifty feet long and two and a half feet tall. (fig. 2.72) The existing green ash trees presented a slight problem for the installation of the terrace. These mature trees were a feature from the original Redding Farm Mrs. Eisenhower especially liked and wanted to preserve. If West and his crew had simply backfilled the terrace over the existing trees, the added soil over the trees' roots would have surely killed them. In order to solve this problem, tree wells were constructed around the trees. The wells were around two to three feet deep and provided protection for the

tree's trunks while allowing water to reach the roots. Additional protection was provided by a root aeration system of terra cotta tiles. The tiles were connected to form pipes, placed at the original ground level, and run to the new grade. The ends of the tile pipes were capped with perforated wooden plugs to allow adequate airflow to the roots. To complete the project, pea gravel was installed behind the finished wall for drainage, fill dirt was added to level the terrace, and topsoil and sod were placed on the new terrace surface.<sup>142</sup>

The flagstone walks on the rear terrace were installed by Charlie Tressler in 1955. Tressler added the walks after the completion of the retaining wall and terrace by West and his crew. Floyd Akers, a fishing buddy of Eisenhower's, had Tressler installing some stonework at Akers' hunting and fishing lodge. Eisenhower admired the work and requested Tressler for the masonry installations at the farm. The first project Tressler worked on in the summer of 1955 was the construction of a stone and brick incinerator, south of the house near the garden. This was used to burn paper and other trash from the house.<sup>143</sup> After he finished this project, he moved on to the installation of the rear terrace walks. All of the stones for the walks were hand picked by Tressler and an assistant from a local mountain. The men excavated the stones and carried them to the farm. Tressler recalled that he never worked from a plan, but just designed the layout of the walks as he went along.<sup>144</sup> (fig. 2.73)



Figure 2.73. Flagstone walk on rear terrace, 1 July 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3249)

Along with the three existing green ash trees, a number of new shrubs, vines, and flowers were used on the rear terrace as part of its initial landscaping. Many of these, as with the plantings in the front of the home, were donations from Eisenhower friends and supporters. Several common boxwood given to General and Mrs.



Eisenhower by W. Alton Jones were placed along the paths and around the home's foundation. The small beds adjacent to the porch along the walkway were planted with seasonal annuals, including pansies (*Viola x wittrockiana*) and tulips in the spring, and red, yellow, and pink tuberous begonias (*Begonia x tuberhybrida*) and caladiums (*Caladium bicolor*) in the summer. English ivy (*Hedera helix*) was planted along the top of the terrace retaining wall and allowed to grow down its face. To maintain a neat appearance the ivy was clipped at four or five inches, keeping a tight covering over the stone. West recalled the workers always used hand shears to prevent having "any jagged rusty brown patches" that might have resulted if electric clippers had been used. Other plantings shown on the 1955 plan include a common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) at the northeast corner of the home, a magnolia (*Magnolia species*) just south of the porch along the foundation, and a few azaleas grouped near the southern terrace steps. (figs. 2.74, 2.75)

By 1969 the green ash, most of the boxwood, and English ivy still remained from the original planting. The lilac, magnolia, and azaleas were no longer extant. Additions included a new lilac adjacent to the northern stone stairs, periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) in the beds along the porch, and several pots containing pink geraniums (*Pelargonium hortorum*) on the steps, tables, and stairway wingwalls.<sup>145</sup>

### South Lawn and Drying Yard

The lawn south of the rear terrace was dominated by two features - the windmill and the old hand pump and well. The windmill had been installed by the Reddings during their residency. During the early years of the Eisenhowers' ownership, the windmill was still operable and water could be pumped from its well. West would occasionally use this water to irrigate the gardens.



Figure 2.74. Planting beds on rear terrace along the base of the porch, mid-1950s. (Walter West collection, EISE NHS files, #EE2030)



Figure 2.75. Detail of ivy on rear terrace retaining wall, General and Mrs. Eisenhower posing for a 50th wedding anniversary photo in the garden, 27 June 1966. (AP/Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2415)

However, the well was undependable and was not consistently used as a primary source of water. Other than its irrigation use, the windmill was only operated sporadically for "show" and by the late 1950s it was rarely, if ever, used.<sup>146</sup> The older hand pump and well had been on the property since before the Reddings' ownership and were located southeast of the windmill. (figs. 2.76-2.78)

A small area of lawn adjacent to the windmill was often used as a drying yard for the laundry. An umbrella-like folding laundry pole was placed in this area as needed. During the White House years, the drying yard was primarily used when Mrs. Eisenhower stayed at the



Figure 2.76. Plantings of trees and shrubs define south garden area, workmen installing lawn, October 1954. (EISE NHS files, #2808)



Figure 2.77. Windmill south of Eisenhower home, 11 December 1954. (AP/UPI, EISE NHS files, #2809)



Figure 2.78. Well and handpump with lilacs and roses, 3 June 1955. (Abbie Rowe, NPS, EISE NHS files, #2813)



Figure 2.79. Semicircular flower bed around old well with "L" shaped lilac hedge, south of home, aerial view from east, original photograph out of focus, 12 September 1956. (EISE NHS files, #3018)

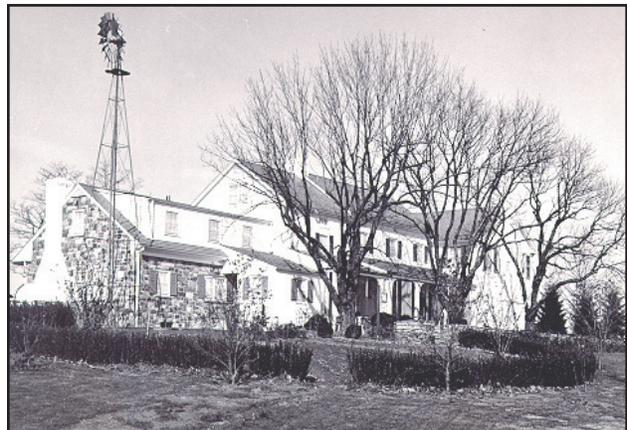


Figure 2.80. Semicircular flower bed removed, hedge and some small trees remaining, ca. 1959. (EISE NHS files, #1480)



farm for extended periods. At these times her personal laundry would be washed and hung on the pole to dry. Otherwise, the laundry was done at the White House. When the pole was not in use, it was stored in the basement. After the Eisenhowers moved to Gettysburg permanently, the drying yard was used on a more regular basis.<sup>147</sup>

Soon after the home's completion, West and his crew began planting in the south lawn area. An "L" shaped lilac hedge was installed along the northern edge of the drying yard, screening it from the terrace. The hedge ran east from the windmill, and then turned north to connect with the terrace retaining wall. Many of these lilacs came from a substantial gift of trees and shrubs given to General and Mrs. Eisenhower by Hershey Estates. Additional lilacs and a white pine were planted south of the drying yard, adjacent to the eastern end of the driveway turn-around. Tea roses (*Rosa species*) were installed around the old well while lilacs and flowering dogwoods were planted nearby in a semicircular arc. (figs. 2.79, 2.80) The arc started at the driveway and extended toward the southern end of the terrace retaining wall and used the well as the center point. This formed an enclosure for the yard. The small bed around the well was enlarged into three large wedge-shaped plots, creating a significant garden space. More tea roses and miscellaneous flowers and bulbs were planted and by 1956, the garden was filled. But it did not remain on the farm much longer. One season, West unearthed some human bones and a scalpel while planting daffodils around the well. Research by the Eisenhowers showed the farm was likely used as a hospital by the Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. As a result, Mrs. Eisenhower told West not to disturb the site and to "let those bones rest in peace" by eliminating the south garden and installing a lawn.<sup>148</sup>

The garden beds were removed and turf was installed, but the semicircular border defining the space remained. A hedge had been installed to further define this planting and it was left in place when the garden beds were removed. West maintained the hedge at around two and a half to three feet in height. The type of plant originally used for the hedge is not mentioned in the historic record, but the prolific use of common boxwood throughout the landscape indicates it may also have



Figure 2.81. Semicircular hedge and lilacs in south lawn, 9 August 1967. (A.J. Paronese, US Marine Corps, EISE NHS files, #3014)

been used here. Examination of historic photographs supports this identification. Whatever was used initially, by the late 1960s the original hedge was replaced with privet. (fig. 2.81)

Other than the hedge, the only remaining evidence of the former garden by 1959 were a few lilacs and flowering dogwoods. By the late 1960s, most of the original trees and shrubs were no longer extant including the white pine and lilacs planted near the driveway. Only two new specimens were identified on the 1969 plan as replacements for the lost plants, a small magnolia (*Magnolia species*) and a flowering almond (*Prunus triloba*). Both of these were located near the hedge on the south side of the lawn.<sup>149</sup>

#### North Flower Garden

To balance the original south flower garden a complementary garden was installed on the north end of the terrace. Although the layout for the north flower garden does not appear on the 1955 plan, historic photographs and recollections by West reveal that it was installed in early 1955, with work starting on this garden even before the eastern lawn was completed. Designed on-site by West, the circular perimeter of the garden was outlined with a boxwood hedge. The interior planting spaces were defined by grassy paths and filled with different flowers according to the season. The garden's initial plantings were a gift to General and Mrs. Eisenhower by Mr. E. F. Harloff of the National



Figure 2.82. Flower garden presented to Mrs. Eisenhower from the National Capital Flower and Garden Show; flowers were used in the north flower garden, bricks were used in the barbecue/teahouse wall, 1955. The bench remains at the farm today. (Ankers Photography, EISE NHS files, #2548)



Figure 2.83. North flower garden, view southwest, 1 July 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3246)



Figure 2.84. General and Mrs. Eisenhower inspect the flowers in the north flower garden, September 1956. (EISE NHS files, #3765)

Capital Flower and Garden Show in Washington, DC. The display “Mrs. Eisenhower’s Garden” from the 1955 show was given to the Eisenhowers and transplanted to the farm soon after the show’s closing in the spring. (figs. 2.82-2.85)

In the years following its installation, the garden was filled with annual flowers planted in large blocks of color and included such species as tulips, salvia (*Salvia splendens*), marigolds (*Tagetes species*) and columbine (*Aquilegia species*). Many were grown from seed in the farm’s greenhouses while others were additional gifts to the Eisenhowers. Planting and maintaining this sizeable flower garden was labor intensive for the crew. Spring and summer were seasons for planting, weeding, and maintaining the garden. After the first freeze in the fall of the year, the crew would seed the garden with grass for the winter. In the spring the sod would be turned under and the garden replanted with flowers again. Along with the types of flowers used, the exact shape of the beds would often change year to year. At different times the planted area inside the boxwood enclosure would be diamond-shaped, oblong, or square, depending on West’s desire.<sup>150</sup>

This garden was in continuous use for only a few years. General and Mrs. Eisenhower realized that after they left



Figure 2.85. Detail of shrub and flower plantings in the north flower garden soon after installation, 1 July 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3245)



the White House the upkeep of the flower beds would become too large an undertaking for a limited staff. So they decided to remove this garden. A hard freeze around the winter of 1959 provided the opportunity. Most of the shrubs in the garden were killed, and those that survived were removed in the spring. Some of the salvaged boxwoods were relocated to the teahouse terrace. The area was replanted in lawn, and by the early 1960s, there was nothing left of the north flower garden remaining in the landscape.<sup>151</sup> This same hard freeze in 1959 was the reason privet replaced the boxwood on the south flower bed.



Figure 2.86. East rose garden and rear terrace wall, shrubs were maintained at two feet in height, view northwest, 25 July 1956. (US Navy, EISE NHS files, #2931)

### East Rose Garden

Historic documentation reveals roses were intended to be included at the Eisenhower Farm from the earliest development of the landscape. Eventually, three separate rose gardens were located on the site, but the first one installed was the east rose garden at the base of the rear terrace retaining wall.<sup>152</sup> (fig. 2.86) One hundred and forty hybrid tea roses were provided to the Eisenhowers by the Conard-Pyle Company of West Grove, Pennsylvania, to establish this garden in early 1954. Photographic documentation reveals the garden was probably not planted until late 1954 or early 1955. The four-foot wide rectilinear garden spanned the entire length of the rear terrace retaining wall, from staircase to staircase, and was located approximately three feet from the base of the wall. When initially installed, the garden was surrounded by lawn on all sides, including the space between the wall and the garden. The roses were planted in two alternating rows in the garden. Some of the Conard-Pyle roses were also used in the south flower garden before it was removed.<sup>153</sup>

The roses were favorites of both General and Mrs. Eisenhower. In remembering Mrs. Eisenhower's fondness for them, James McCown said the roses in the east garden were her "pride and joy...as far as flowers are concerned because she sat here and she liked to just look over the tops of them."<sup>154</sup> The roses not only added beauty to the landscape, but they also provided a source of cut flowers. Nearly every morning during blooming

season, new flowers were cut and used for bouquets in the home. Roses were used in the house more than other flowers, and it was primarily General Eisenhower who did the cutting. Although Mrs. Eisenhower rarely cut the roses, she often supervised her husband when he was at the task.<sup>155</sup>

Over the years, a wide variety of roses were planted in this garden. Many were gifts to the Eisenhowers and they would end up in the rose garden for a period of time before they died, were moved, or given away to guests by Mrs. Eisenhower. Complete records do not exist for all the individual rose plantings, however West recalled some of the varieties he installed were "President Lincoln," "Charlotte Armstrong," "White Radiance," "Peace," "The Talisman," and "Hoover."<sup>156</sup> One special variety was named after General Eisenhower called the "General Eisenhower Rose" and was a special gift from Konrad Adenauer of West Germany. This rose was planted in the North Rose Garden.

Given the short life of most hybrid roses, along with the harsh winters at Gettysburg, it is unlikely that any of the original shrubs survived very long. However, the east rose garden as a part of the landscape endured and was still extant on the farm in 1969, although with an entirely new generation of roses in place.

Table 2.3 lists the numerous known donations of roses.



TABLE 2.3  
RECORDED DONATIONS OF ROSE BUSHES

How Many	Source	Date Acquired
1 climbing rose	Unknown (This rose was planted to grow over the Dutch Oven.)	ca. 1954–55
140 shrubs - including 'General Eisenhower Rose'	Conard-Pyle Company, West Grove, PA	early 1954
unknown	Tree Land Nurseries, Cambridge, MA	March 1955
unknown	Mrs. Grace Z. Cremer, Cremer Florist, Inc., Hanover, PA	May 1955
6 shrubs - 'Golden Rapture Rose'	Tacoma Rose Society, Tacoma, WA	August 1955
8 shrubs - 'Orange Delight Rose'	J. H. Thompson's Sons, Wholesale Rose Growers, Kennett Square, PA (from Jackson and Perkins Co., Newark, NJ)	October 1955
10 shrubs - 'Peace Rose'	Mr. Donald Dickey, Chairman, Minnesota Citizens for Eisenhower, Minneapolis, MN	October 1955
100 shrubs - 'General Eisenhower Rose'	Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany (These were primarily planted in the Adenauer Rose Garden east of the barn but some may have been used at other sites.)	December 1955
100 shrubs - 'Peace Rose'	Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany	
24 shrubs - All American winners	Mr. John Awdry Armstrong, Armstrong Nurseries, Ontario, CA	March 1956
<i>There may have been other rose donations that do not appear in the historic record. See Appendix A for a more detailed donation list with appropriate references.</i>		

## Barbecue/Teahouse

### General Eisenhower at the Grill

One of General Eisenhower's favorite activities was grilling steaks on an outdoor barbecue. John Eisenhower surmised his father loved this because it relieved stress and provided relaxation. Eisenhower often grilled at home, but he was also occasionally known to use this activity to handle stressful international situations. John recalled one instance in 1960 when his father was at a summit meeting in Paris with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Khrushchev had broken up the meeting and in an effort to relieve the tension, Eisenhower fired up a grill outside the embassy. John said people were wondering "well now what was he doing outside the embassy residence there cooking steaks. Well, he was enjoying himself. It was quite a... relaxation for him."<sup>157</sup>

Naturally, this love of barbecuing was carried over to the farm. By all accounts, General Eisenhower was a good cook and had developed a uniquely personalized way to grill steaks. Arthur Nevins described the process:

*the way he did it was somewhat of a show. He and Sgt. Moaney, his handyman, would get the charcoal in exactly the right shape and then he would just nonchalantly throw in the embers this nice filet that he had... coated, I think, with salt and some garlic and some stuff to keep it from getting injured. And then at the appropriate time he would withdraw this steak and brush it off and that was the most delicious steak you've ever tasted. It was just wonderful.<sup>158</sup>*

Eisenhower was also very particular about the meat he used, usually preferring beef he had raised on the farm. According to Mary Jean Eisenhower, her grandfather's barbecues were elaborate productions:

*He would hang his meat, and then when he had it cut he would put mustard all over the outside and throw it directly onto the coals. He did not use the rack. It made for the best steak that you ever had in your life. It was all in his method... he literally seared the outside and it was almost cold in the middle, but it was delicious... He always had some apropos apron, usually a full length one. Occasionally he would wear the chef's hat. He made a big production out of the barbecues. That was one of his favorite things to do. You stayed out of his way when he was in the*



*middle of cooking. You did not disturb him because he had it down to such a science that he...wanted to make sure it was perfect. He was a real perfectionist about that sort of thing.*<sup>159</sup> (fig. 2.87)

#### Construction of the Barbecue/Teahouse

Even though he enjoyed the activity so much, General Eisenhower did not initially want to install an outdoor barbecue at the farm. One of Peaslee's early plans for the landscape included an outdoor grill, but upon reviewing the plan in September 1954, Eisenhower said, "I think I have no need for an outdoor barbecue pit, since I am now the possessor of about five different kinds of machines for barbecue purposes."<sup>160</sup>

However, Eisenhower's attitude soon began to change. Perhaps this started in the spring of 1955 after the National Capital Flower Show. Not only did the

Eisenhowers receive a donation of shrubs and flowers from this show, which were later installed in the north flower garden, but they also were given the custom-made bricks that had been used in the display garden's wall. These were a gift from E. T. Chewning, owner of Continental Clay Company. Continental had manufactured the curved bricks and supplied them for the display garden. After the show, when the shrubs and flowers from "Mrs. Eisenhower's Garden" were sent to the farm, Chewning gladly donated the bricks as well.<sup>161</sup> Having no place to use the bricks immediately, General Eisenhower put them in storage and began to think about where they could be used on the farm. (see fig. 2.82)

By October 1955, Eisenhower had completely changed his mind and decided it would be nice to have a place for outdoor barbecuing. He intended to use the donated bricks to construct a garden wall near the greenhouses and install a small terrace in front of the wall. Writing



Figure 2.87. Guests on barbecue/teahouse terrace at White House staff picnic, 1 July 1959. (Mary Jane McCaffree, EISE NHS files, #2335)



Figure 2.88. Flagstone walk installed by Charlie Tressler between barbecue/teahouse and the Eisenhower home, 39th anniversary reception for General and Mrs. Eisenhower with the White House staff, 1 July 1955. (Mary Jane McCaffree, EISE NHS files, #2274)

to Nevins, Eisenhower described what he had in mind for the terrace and barbecue:

*As you know, I have always thought it would be nice to use the hand made brick we have to build something of a decorating wall down near the green house [sic], and putting in front of the wall a flagstone surface of some say 12x15 feet, or 15 feet square, which could be the firm foundation for an outdoor picnic table; then back of the decorative wall we could put in a simple outdoor grill if we should choose. It is possible that this type of thing should wait until Mamie and I get there when we can decide on the exact spot to start the thing, but of course I hate to put it off until the weather gets so bad we might not be able to do it this fall. Anyway, if you think we should start soon, you might write to Ann [Whitman] and I can attempt to draw up a little sketch of the kind of thing I tentatively have in mind. If we do go into such a project, I think that we should probably have to plant a few shrubs on the edge of the flagstones facing the house. This would be because there would probably sit on the flagstones a red wood [sic] table which we have out here in Denver and which is built strictly for the picnic type of thing.<sup>162</sup>*

At some point during the next few months, a teahouse was added to the planned barbecue area. Charlie Tompkins was again called in to supervise the construction, and his crew completed a small brick building with an attached wooden pergola during the summer of 1956.



Figure 2.89. Detail of barbecue pit, view southwest, ca. 1960s. (Springfield collection, EISE NHS files, #2851)



Figure 2.90. Detail of eagle weathervane on teahouse roof, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE files)

Other laborers, including Charlie Tressler, worked on the installation of the brick and stone terrace, brick serpentine wall, and brick barbecue pit. Tressler also installed a path of stepping stones to connect the new terrace with the house. Placed directly in the lawn, each stone was set on a bed of sand for leveling. The path roughly followed the curve of the circular hedge, near the old well and pump, connecting the barbecue with southern set of steps on the home's rear terrace.<sup>163</sup> (figs. 2.88, 2.89)

The initial design of the teahouse was modified soon after its completion. Mrs. Eisenhower decided she did not like the view of the greenhouse from her bedroom window. The new teahouse blocked some of this view, but it was not tall enough to completely obscure the greenhouse. To remedy this, the building's slate roof was reconstructed with an increased pitch, raising it several feet in order to screen the greenhouse. An eagle weathervane was added to the apex of the roof soon after completion.<sup>164</sup> (fig. 2.90)



## Landscaping the Site

Boris Timchenko, the landscape architect General Eisenhower had met through the National Capital Garden and Flower Show, developed a landscape plan for the new barbecue and teahouse soon after construction was completed. By the summer of 1957, at least a partial implementation of this design had been completed, although it is unknown if the entire plan was followed. To enclose the terrace, a low hedge was placed along its northern edge, much as General Eisenhower had suggested in his earlier vision of the site. Timchenko chose bigleaf Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata* 'Rotundifolia') for the hedge, but common boxwood may have been substituted instead. Existing trees marked on the plan included three Norway spruce behind the garden wall just southwest of the arbor and an American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) above the wall on the western end of the terrace. It is not known when these trees were installed.

Various trees and shrubs were specified by Timchenko to fill the beds behind the wall, along the slope on the northwestern end of the terrace, and along the eastern side of the teahouse. Suggested species included glossy abelia (*Abelia x grandiflora*), red maple, Washington hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*), Rose-of-Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*), inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), American holly, crabapple, Japanese pieris (*Pieris japonica*), pyracantha (*Pyracantha coccinea*), Japanese yew (*Taxus cuspidata* 'Capitata'), dwarf yew, and periwinkle. Additionally, three Concord grapes (*Vitis labrusca* 'Concord') were planted at the base of the pergola and allowed to cover the structure while a common pear (*Pyrus communis*) was espaliered against the garden wall.<sup>165</sup> Timchenko's plan is shown in figure 2.92 and some of the vegetation that was installed can be seen in figure 2.87.

After the construction and the landscaping were complete, the barbecue and teahouse were used frequently. General and Mrs. Eisenhower entertained quite often during the White House

years, primarily on the weekends when they were at the farm. This part of the landscape was more successful in serving the "outdoor room" function than the rear terrace. The space became a favorite place for summer cookouts and was enjoyed by the entire Eisenhower family. According to Barbara Eisenhower, it "was considered a big treat to have a steak cookout down there."<sup>166</sup>

In the early 1960s, many of the original plantings were still extant around the barbecue and teahouse. However, the hedge along the northern edge of the terrace had been removed. According to West's recollections, a winter freeze killed this hedge, along with many other plants on the farm. The hedge was not replaced after it was lost.<sup>167</sup> (fig. 2.91)

The 1969 plan showed a much greater change to the barbecue and teahouse landscape. Only a small number of original plantings remained. The three Norway spruce, American beech, and one red maple were extant. Surviving shrubs included a single Japanese pieris, three dwarf yew, and three Rose-of-Sharon. A few additional plants had been added to replace original materials. Seven Japanese holly were installed on the northwestern slope, English ivy was climbing the teahouse walls, and a clematis on the serpentine wall. The espaliered pear was still growing by the barbecue. The teahouse, pergola, and terrace had remained essentially unchanged, but the original stepping stone pathway was gone. It was replaced circa 1969 with a brick-on-sand walk. The new brick walk was in the same location as the original stepping stone path. (figs. 2.93-2.95)



Figure 2.91. North elevation of teahouse/barbecue with the boxwood hedge and other vegetation no longer extant, NBC panel discussion with General Eisenhower, Melvin Laird, Gerald Ford, and John Tower, 6 June 1961. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2684)





Figure 2.93. Brick walk to barbecue/teahouse from rear terrace, view west, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)

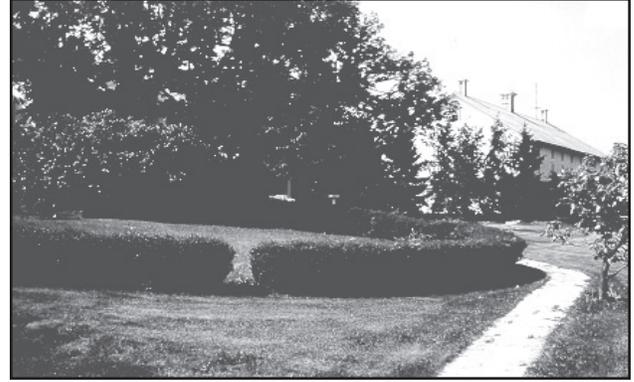


Figure 2.94. Brick walk to barbecue/teahouse from rear terrace, view northwest, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)



Figure 2.95. North elevation of barbecue/teahouse with most original plantings no longer extant, 8 September 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2825)

### Putting Green

#### General Eisenhower Golfs at Gettysburg

Another favorite activity at which General Eisenhower excelled was golf. He had enjoyed this sport for many years prior to arriving in Gettysburg. After buying the farm he would often spend a free afternoon playing a round at the Gettysburg Country Club, both during and after he was the president. The club provided him with an honorary membership to encourage his play. Art Kennell, who oversaw maintenance at the club, was asked to serve as Eisenhower's permanent caddie. When asked

about the job, Kennell said "of course I didn't hesitate a minute accepting the responsibility." According to Secret Service Agents, during the White House years Eisenhower's golf cart was transported to and from the Gettysburg Country Club each time Eisenhower played golf. After Eisenhower left the White House he no longer had Secret Service and Art Kennell most likely took on the responsibility of maintaining Eisenhower's golf cart.<sup>168</sup>

Eisenhower enjoyed his time at the club, although his celebrity status had a few drawbacks. He was particularly annoyed when other golfers would let him play through.

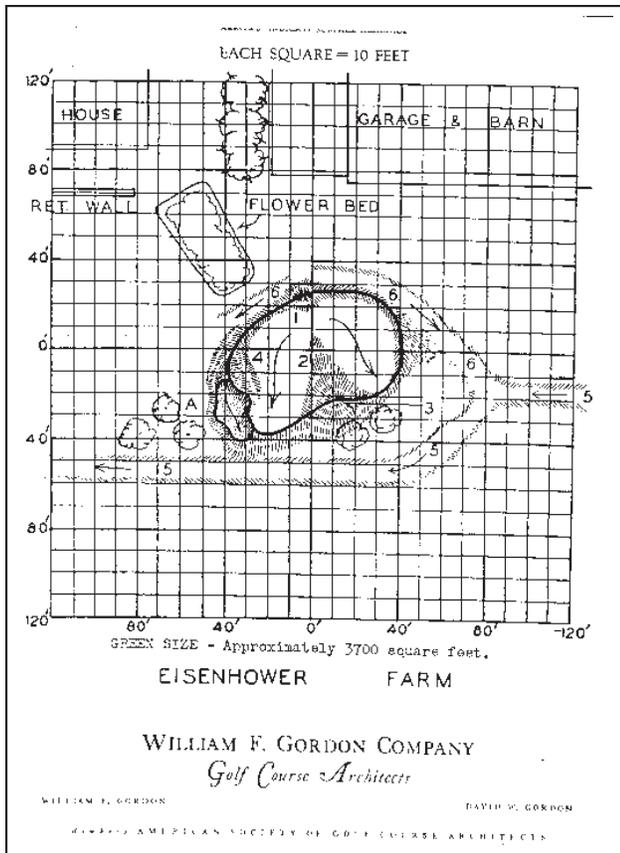


Figure 2.96. Sketch of putting green from the William F. Gordon Company, September 1955. (Ann Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Teahouse, Playhouse, Putting Green, Skeet Range," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library)

In accepting the offers, he "felt he was hurrying his golf game."<sup>169</sup> Nevins often accompanied Eisenhower on these excursions and was also annoyed by this. In addition to feeling rushed, he often would not "get a good shot when [he] was in a hurry and a lot of people watching." Nevins also suspected that other golfers "were delighted to let the President go through," but he wasn't so sure they were happy about letting him pass.<sup>170</sup>

### Golf at the Farm

Knowing of Eisenhower's keen interest in golf, the Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA) proposed the installation of a "pitch and putt" green on the Eisenhower Farm in April 1955. General Eisenhower was interested in the prospect of practicing on the farm and readily accepted the offer.<sup>171</sup>

The PGA spent considerable time and effort in coordinating and planning this donation. After the initial idea was suggested and approved by the Executive

Committee, support of the local Philadelphia Section of the PGA was acquired through Henry Poe, Sectional President and Professional at the Reading Country Club. Poe then became the official representative on the project for the PGA. Local officials and members of the Golf Club Superintendent's Association (GCSA) were solicited for support of the project. Charles W. Shirey, President of the Central Pennsylvania GCSA at the Country Club of York was instrumental in gaining this support. Once approved by everyone involved, the idea was formally proposed to Eisenhower.<sup>172</sup>

After General Eisenhower agreed to the construction of the green, a meeting was arranged to look around the farm and choose an appropriate site. Representatives for the project, including Shirey and Poe, met at the farm to discuss arrangements and details of construction.<sup>173</sup> An initial spot was chosen, which apparently was vetoed by Mrs. Eisenhower. In explaining her opposition, Eisenhower said, "Mrs. Ike says that the green simply must be some place where she can sit on the porch and watch us practice. This means we will have to put it somewhere east of the house."<sup>174</sup> The final location chosen for the green was in the eastern lawn, northeast of the rear terrace.

The GCSA suggested obtaining the services of the William F. Gordon Company of Doylestown, Pennsylvania to design the green. Gordon specialized in golf course architecture, engineering, and construction. It was agreed that he would be retained only if he would provide his services as an aid to the GCSA and not as a professional representative of the PGA. Gordon agreed to work on the project, but on the condition that he "be allowed to design, build, and pay all bills." He also asked "that no publicity is to be given except what the White House chooses to release." This was in response to an earlier episode at the White House where a green was constructed with much publicity that "was not to the President's liking."<sup>175</sup>

Gordon submitted a plan and model of the proposed green to Eisenhower prior to construction. (fig. 2.96) Construction on the green started in September 1955 and some modifications to the design were made on site. Gordon supplied a bulldozer, tractor, small ditcher, soil mixer, and laborers to operate the equipment. Grounds personnel from both Lancaster and York Country Clubs as well as West and the farm crew provided labor for the installation. Initially, the required 4000 square feet of sod was to be donated by the Lancaster Country Club, but



Figure 2.97 Putting green and sand trap soon after initial installation, north flower garden and Eisenhower home in background, view to southwest, November 1955. (EISE NHS files, #2868)

this sod was ruined by a flood before it could be used. Subsequently, the sod for the green was provided by the Saucon Valley Country Club through Mr. Eugene Grace. The variety used was Pennncross bentgrass (*Agrostis tenuis Pennncross*). The green was completed and ready for play by October.<sup>176</sup> (fig. 2.97)

A note from the PGA indicated that by February 1956, they had not received any bills for the construction of the green from any of the concerned parties. Although the organization was willing to accept the financial responsibility for the entire project, apparently those involved preferred to donate their time and resources to the construction of this amenity for General Eisenhower. It is not known if the PGA ever made any disbursements in connection with this project.<sup>177</sup>

### Using the New Green

After the green's completion, General Eisenhower used it frequently. One primary approach tee was kept mowed by West's crew. It was located east of the greenhouse, across the swale and electric fence, slightly out into the eastern field and was approximately ninety yards from the green. Other temporary tees made out of coconut fiber mats were also used. These would be placed in the lawn wherever Eisenhower wanted to tee off. Either West or Moaney would assist Eisenhower when he was playing this way.<sup>178</sup>

Friends and family were invited to use the green as well. General Eisenhower and Arthur Nevins would

often play a little game on the green. Each would have three balls, and they would get some distance away from the green. They would pitch onto the green and bet on who could get the least number of strokes with each of the three balls. Barbara Eisenhower was a regular golfer and she occasionally practiced her putting on the green. She would get pointers from her father-in-law, whom she remembered was "a very good teacher."<sup>179</sup>



Figure 2.98. Detail of putting green flag. (Photo by OCLP, 2002)

The original flags used on the green were a typical eighteen hole set. As one wore out, it was replaced with another, so the numbered flags changed regularly. The flags were changed after Frank Schuman suggested a special golf flag should be made for General Eisenhower. Schuman worked for Philadelphia Toro and was a friend of Art Kennell. Schuman had several flags made for Eisenhower. Each had five white stars on a red field, representing Eisenhower's rank of general. Schuman gave the flags to Eisenhower through Kennell with one stipulation; he wanted Kennell to fly one of the flags over the green and then give it back to him as a souvenir.<sup>180</sup> (fig. 2.98)

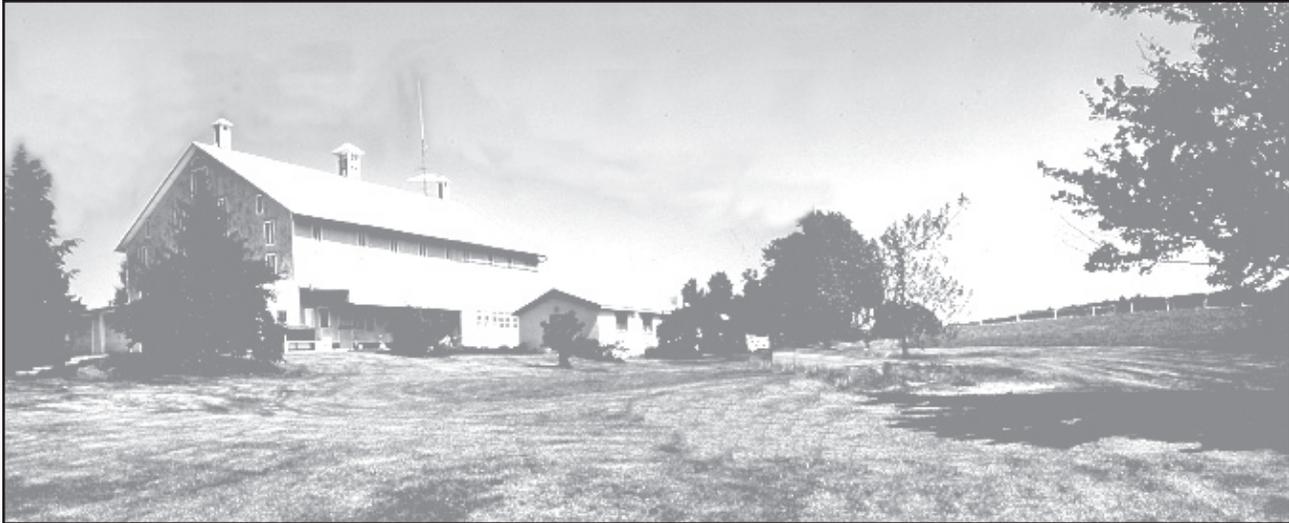


Figure 2.99. Putting green in state of neglect, sandtrap to right of photo, barn and storage building in background, view to northwest, May 1969, two images combined into a panorama. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)

### Green Maintenance

Maintenance of the green was part of West's responsibility at the farm. This included not only mowing, overseeding, and fertilizing, but also hand watering since an automatic irrigation system was not part of the green's original construction.<sup>181</sup> However, due to the skill and amount of work required to successfully maintain a putting green, West soon asked for help from Art Kennell, who was obviously more experienced in greens management. During the first few years, while General Eisenhower was still in office, Kennell gave advice to West as needed. Later, after Eisenhower was out of the White House and West had left the farm, Kennell would often "come down and recommend to the President what should be done" and actually do the work himself. Eisenhower would leave it up to Kennell to make sure the green "was properly taken care of" through fertilization, spraying, aeration, and other maintenance tasks.<sup>182</sup>

Given its location on a farm, there were a few complications in successful maintenance of the green. One of these was the occasional onslaught of farm animals. Barbara Eisenhower recalled one "horse incident":

*We were all sitting on the porch, and it was before dinner...I think there was a card game going...The two girls had gone down to see the horses and they accidentally left the gate open. So, while we were sitting on the porch, all the horses, and I think there were about seven of them at the time, came charging across the lawn and across the middle of the*

*putting green, at a dead gallop. My father-in-law's first reaction was he just threw his head back and laughed, and he said 'What a beautiful sight!' You know it was getting toward dusk and these horses' manes were streaming out behind them...and I thought, 'How good natured.'...It took the green quite a while to recover from that.<sup>183</sup>*

However, David Eisenhower described a similar incident where General Eisenhower had a much different reaction:

*Susan was saddling up the Arabians on one corner, I was driving in and Granddad with two friends were standing outside the porch as Granddad pointed out spots of interest around the farm to his guests. At just about that point, one of the horses spooked and broke across the field and headed straight for the green and Granddad was still pointing out the Nevins farm and the creek and so forth. It was a fairly soggy afternoon and sure enough the horse dashes right over the green, stops at the green as though he realized it was something special and...completely destroyed the thing...Granddad saw the whole thing...Naturally he was...unhappy and [wanted] to banish the horse for about six months, but we talked him out of it.<sup>184</sup>*

Even with this occasional abuse, the green was always repaired and continued to be maintained and used until Eisenhower's death in 1969. After this time, the green was no longer used regularly and its maintenance became less important. Although it was still mowed, it was not



highly maintained as it had been previously. Weeds invaded the turfgrass and almost completely took over the sand trap.<sup>185</sup> (fig. 2.99)

### Trees in East Lawn

When the Eisenhowers purchased the farm from the Reddings, the lawn east of the house had no trees of any size other than the three green ash trees located to the rear of the farmhouse. A sporadic row of trees grew along the fence line between the eastern field and the field south of the house, but this did not extend along the fence directly east of the house. During the mid-1950s landscaping, and in the years following, several ornamental trees were added to the expanse of lawn between the home's rear terrace and the edge of the eastern field.

An early photograph shows that by October 1954, at least one medium-sized tree, perhaps a crabapple, had been placed in the east lawn. (fig. 2.100) By 1961, this tree was no longer extant, but several others were located



Figure 2.100. One of the few original trees in eastern lawn, possibly a crabapple, October 1954. (EISE NHS files, #2808)

in the area. West's crew had added two white pines, a weeping crabapple, and at least three tulip poplars (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), between the teahouse and the flagpole. (fig. 2.101) A note on the 1967 plan indicates the crabapple was a gift to Mrs. Eisenhower, but no other information is provided.<sup>186</sup> The plan also indicates the white pines were part of the donations from Colonel and Mrs. Moore in the mid-1950s. The tulip poplars are not mentioned in any documentation. Nevertheless, by 1969 the white pines, crabapple, and three tulip poplars were thriving in the lawn. The recorded size for these trees indicates that they were all approximately ten to fifteen years old and were planted in the mid- to late 1950s. A small oriental magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangiana*) was also shown on the plan, between a white pine and the teahouse walkway. At only three inches in caliper, it is unlikely this tree was installed before the mid-1960s. (fig. 2.102)

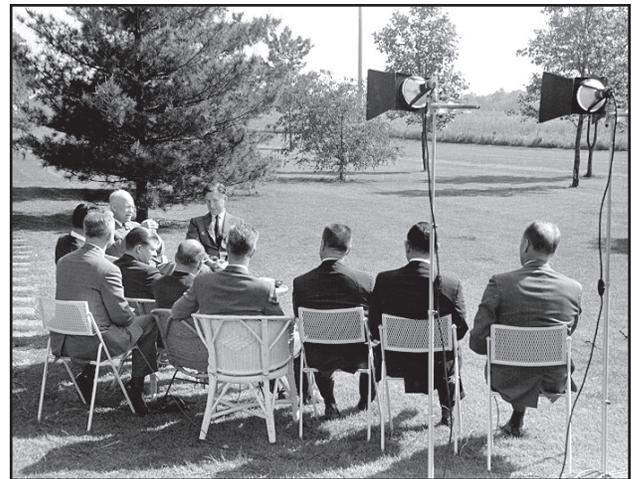


Figure 2.101. White pines, crabapples, and tulip poplars in the eastern lawn, NBC panel discussion near barbecue/teahouse, view to northeast, 6 June 1961. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2689)



Figure 2.102. Tulip poplar, white pine, and other trees in the eastern lawn, view to south, teahouse/barbecue screened by mature trees, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, three images combined into a panorama, EISE NHS files)



Figure 2.103.  
Newly installed  
flagpole in the  
eastern lawn, view  
to west, ca. 1955.  
(EISE NHS files,  
#2146)

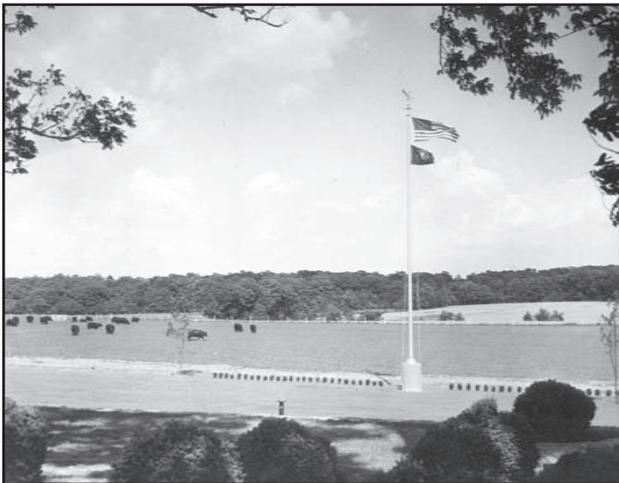


Figure 2.104. Flagpole with presidential flag and boxwood hedgerow, view to east, no date. (EISE NHS files, "Gift Books")

### Flagpole

In May 1955, the Suffolk County Republican Committee of New York donated an aluminum flagpole to the Eisenhowers. The pole was installed on the eastern edge of the east lawn, centered on the house. The base of the pole could be taken apart and the pole was hinged and balanced, allowing it to be lowered to the ground. This design allowed for easy access to the gilded eagle weathervane that topped the pole.<sup>187</sup> (fig. 2.103)

The American flag was always raised at the farm when any member of the Eisenhower family was in residence. When Eisenhower was at the farm, the presidential flag was flown in addition, just below the American flag. The flags remained up unless the weather was extremely inclement. The daily responsibility for raising and lowering the flags was alternated between the

Eisenhowers' drivers, Sergeant Dry and Dick Flohr. This activity followed the Army's schedule with the flag raising at "o-eight-hundred," or 8:00 a.m., and the flag lowering at "seventeen-thirty," or 5:30 p.m. After Eisenhower's presidency, Congress gave him his five star rank again and the five star flag flew on the flagpole at this time.<sup>188</sup>

Soon after the flagpole was installed, a boxwood hedge was planted slightly to the east of the pole, running north and south along the edge of the east lawn. (fig. 2.104) This hedge lasted until circa 1959 when it was killed during a winter freeze. West believed part of the reason the hedge did not survive was the microclimate around the flagpole; the area was lower than surrounding ground, creating a much cooler and damper location which was not ideal for the boxwood shrubs.<sup>189</sup> The hedge was never replaced, but the flagpole remained a fixture in the landscape and was still extant in the late 1960s.

### Small-scale Features

Many small-scale features were added to the landscape surrounding the home during the initial construction in the mid-1950s. Some features were gifts, while other features were purchased by General and Mrs. Eisenhower as personal additions to their home. The continued presence of these items throughout the Eisenhower's ownership of the farm provided consistency and contributed to the character of the farm's landscape design. Documentation exists for several of these small-scale features, providing an accurate record of their origin and use in the landscape. Other items are not so well documented and are not discussed in the text, but are included in the accompanying table.

#### Basketball Net

A small-scale feature of particular interest to the grandchildren was a basketball net set up on the southern side of the house. Although there is no documentation for the installation of this feature, it was likely installed in the late 1950s when the children were at the appropriate age to use it. It was removed sometime later and was no longer extant by the late 1960s. A martin house was installed in the same location for a short time.<sup>190</sup>

#### Bird-related Features

The Eisenhowers enjoyed birds in the landscape and several bird-related features were used on the farm,



including birdhouses, birdfeeders, and birdbaths. A martin bird house was used for several years, first appearing around 1954-55. References to this feature indicate it was moved to several different locations, including a couple of sites near the driveway parking area south of the house, at the northeast corner of the teahouse, and near the barn. The martin house was still in use by the late 1960s and continued to be used until the early 1970s, primarily due to Mrs. Eisenhower's desire to see the martins return each summer. Other small birdhouses and feeders were scattered around the landscape. Most of these were installed by the Eisenhowers' grandson, David, in the mid-1950s. Documented locations for these features include the planted area between the barn and the house, the hedge along the pine windbreak, and in a tree along the eastern edge of the rear lawn. It is unknown how long these remained, as most are not indicated on the historic maps and do not appear in photographs. A handmade birdfeeder was crafted by eighty-two year old D. E. Billman of St. Petersburg, Florida, and given as a special gift to Mrs. Eisenhower in February 1955. The feeder had a small plaque inscribed with the name "Mamic." It is unknown where this feature was originally used. Two birdbaths were located near the house, one on the rear terrace, and another in the north lawn between the house and barn. The birdbath in the north lawn was in use by 1955. The other one does not appear in historic photographs until 1956. Both were still extant in the

landscape in 1967, but by 1969 only the birdbath between the house and barn was shown. West remembered the birdbath on the terrace had artificial birds in it although he did not mention the other birdbath. Photographs show the one in the north lawn contained at least one artificial bird. Since the birdbaths would be stored in the winter and usually returned to the landscape in the spring, the location for each birdbath may have been interchanged from year to year. West remembered the terrace birdbath in particular because it was such a nuisance to keep clean, and he and Moaney would often try to put the cleaning job off on the other person.<sup>191</sup> (figs. 2.105-2.109)



Figure 2.105. Rear terrace birdbath and iron bench, east rose garden in foreground, 25 July 1956. (US Navy, EISE NHS files, #2931)



Figure 2.106. Side yard birdbath with concrete bird in background, Frisco railroad bell in foreground, 1 July 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3250)



Figure 2.107. Handmade birdfeeder given to Mrs. Eisenhower, no date. (EISE NHS files, "Gift Books")



Figure 2.108. Location of the north lawn birdbath, railroad bell, and lantern, north garden in the foreground, 1 July 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3246)



Figure 2.109. Detail of martin house.



Figure 2.110. Electric wire fencing along the eastern lawn and field boundary, General and Mrs. Eisenhower receive a 39th anniversary gift during their celebration, 1 July 1955. (Mary Jane McCaffree, EISE NHS files, #2286)

### Fencing

An electric wire fence was installed along the border between the eastern lawn and the adjacent field in the early 1950s. This fence kept the grazing cattle from entering the lawn area from the field. The feature was extant into the early 1960s, but by 1969, it had been removed.<sup>192</sup> Other fencing styles used on the working farm are discussed in later sections of this document. (fig. 2.110)

### Lanterns

Two reproduction colonial brass and glass lanterns were installed on the rear terrace soon after its completion. The lamps were made by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Tucker of Fairfield, Connecticut, and given to the Eisenhowers in March 1955.<sup>193</sup> Each lantern was mounted on a six by six inch square wooden post with a wrought-iron bracket. The posts were installed on the north and south ends of the terrace, near the locomotive bells. These lanterns became permanent fixtures in the landscape and were still extant in the late 1960s. (fig. 2.111)

### Patio Furniture

Mr. and Mrs. Bolling Jones of Atlanta, Georgia, presented the Eisenhowers with a set of white patio furniture in August 1955. The set consisted of three cast iron benches and a folding metal table with four chairs. The furniture was used primarily on the rear terrace and was a fixture

in the landscape during the Eisenhower's ownership of the farm. Two of the benches were placed underneath the green ash trees and the third was occasionally used in the eastern lawn. The table and chairs were used on the terrace lawn between the trees. The furniture was still in use by the late 1960s.<sup>194</sup> (figs. 2.112, 2.113)

### Railroad Bells

Two of the most prominent small-scale features introduced into the landscape were the brass railroad locomotive bells located at each end of the retaining wall. Both bells were gifts to General Eisenhower. The bell installed at the northern end of the wall was the "Frisco" bell. It was a gift of Clark Hungerford, President of the Frisco Railroad, in October 1954. The bell was originally used on a locomotive operated by the St. Louis – San Francisco Railway Company. It was inscribed with both the emblem of the railroad and the official Seal of the President. The other bell, installed at the southern end of the terrace, came from the Wabash Railroad Company. It was presented to Eisenhower in November 1954 by the railroad's president, Arthur K. Atkinson. The bell was inscribed "To D. E. from Art."<sup>195</sup>

General Eisenhower's initial idea for the bells was to "set them up on the same axle so that we would get a duplicate chime when using them." He wanted them mounted on a "plain and simple concrete base" that could be covered with ivy, and possibly located near the windmill.<sup>196</sup> Evidently he later changed his mind concerning the bells'



Figure 2.111. Detail of south lantern on rear terrace, view to south, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)



Figure 2.112. General and Mrs. Eisenhower pose for a 50th wedding anniversary photo on one of the iron benches on the rear terrace, 28 June 1966. (Paul Roy, EISE NHS files, #1573)



Figure 2.113. Iron table, chairs, and bench on rear terrace, General and Mrs. Eisenhower walking along the flagstone path, 27 June 1966. (AP photo, Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2405)

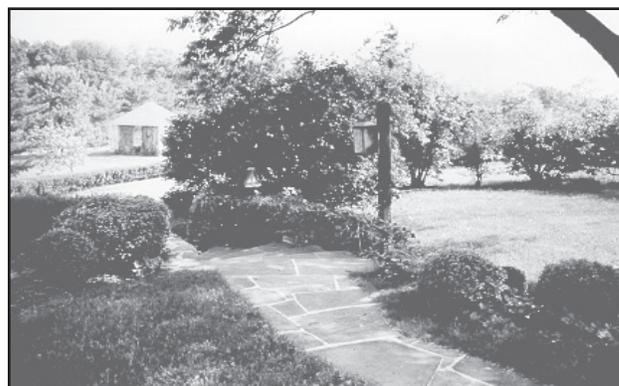


Figure 2.114. Location of lantern and railroad bell along the flagstone walk, south end of the rear terrace, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)

mounting and placement, instructing Berkey to install the bells on two different piers at opposite ends of the rear terrace retaining wall. The mason started work on the piers in early May 1955 using stone matching the retaining wall. The bells were mounted soon after this date.<sup>197</sup>

The locomotive bells became favorites of the Eisenhowers' grandchildren. According to Mrs. Eisenhower, the children would love to ring the bells and she was "always frightened the people in Gettysburg would think we were on fire or something."<sup>198</sup> On one occasion, Mary Jean Eisenhower, the youngest grandchild, tried to ring one of the bells by sticking her finger in the hole in the handle. Much to her surprise, her finger became swollen and she was stuck. Remembering the incident, she later recalled "I couldn't move from there either, and once again Delores Moaney always came to the rescue... [Delores] came out and found me and took soap and water to my finger and got me out."<sup>199</sup>

The brass bells were always kept brightly polished by Sergeant Moaney and were a consistent fixture in the landscape.<sup>200</sup> Both bells were still extant in the late 1960s. They are well-documented on historic maps and in many photographs. (figs. 2.114-2.116)

#### Sundial

A second sundial was a gift to General and Mrs. Eisenhower from the Radio and Television Correspondents Association. Given in February 1955, the bronze,



Figure 2.115. Frisco Railroad Bell, located on the north end of the rear terrace, 1 July 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3250)

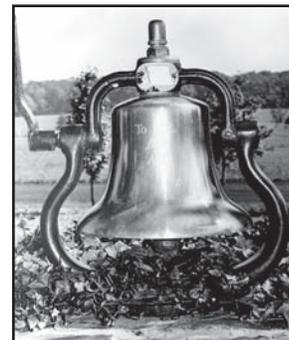


Figure 2.116. Wabash Railroad Bell, located on the south end of the rear terrace, 6 October 1959. (US Navy, EISE NHS files, #2583)

hexagonal face of the sundial had raised Roman numerals and contained the Latin inscription "Tempus Fugit" (English translation - "Time Flies"). The sundial and a small inscribed plaque were both mounted on a 120-millimeter artillery shell.<sup>201</sup> This sundial was placed in the center of the rear lawn where it remained throughout the Eisenhowers' ownership of the property. (figs. 2.117, 2.118)



## Wooden Planters

During the growing season, annual flowers were often installed on the rear terrace in a variety of containers to provide additional color and interest to the landscape. West recalled two wooden planters in particular that were regularly used for this purpose. Although mainly used on the terrace, for a short time one of these planters was placed under the living room window on the front of the house. It did not remain there long, however, and was soon moved back to the rear terrace. A notation on the 1969 plan indicates that “white wood pots” continued to be used in the landscape, primarily on the steps, wing walls, and tables of the rear terrace. Historic photographs show that some of these planters were also painted green.



Figure 2.117. Detail of sundial on artillery shell, no date. (EISE NHS files, “Gift Books”)



Figure 2.120. Detail of garden plaque used in rear terrace beds, “The kiss of the sun for pardon, The song of the birds for mirth, One is nearer God’s heart in a garden, Than anywhere else on earth,” May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)



Figure 2.118. Artillery shell sundial in center of eastern lawn, Wabash bell in foreground, White House staff picnic, 1 July 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3242)

The planters were usually filled with seasonal annuals including pansies, tuberous begonias, geraniums, gloxinias (*Sinningia speciosa*), and cyclamen (*Cyclamen species*). A number of “unusual” annuals were chosen because they provided variety and would make a “good conversation piece.” West would leave the plants in individual pots and place the entire pot into the larger planter. This way, if the plant became sickly or Mrs. Eisenhower wanted a change, the plants could quickly and easily be replaced with something from the greenhouse.<sup>202</sup> (figs. 2.119-2.121)

Table 2.4 provides a comprehensive list of the small-scale features located around the main house. The status of each feature at the end of the Eisenhowers’ ownership period is indicated.



Figure 2.119. Mrs. Eisenhower in doorway of sunporch, wooden planters on step, small garden plaque in bed to right, summer 1966. (EISE NHS files, #3185)



Figure 2.121. Detail of incinerator. (Photo by OCLP, 2002)



TABLE 2.4  
SMALL-SCALE FEATURES, AREA 2: MAIN HOUSE

Item	Source	Date Acquired	Original Location	Status 1967–69
Basketball net	Unknown	ca. 1954–55	In driveway parking area south of House, used by grandchildren	No longer extant
Birdbaths (2)	Unknown	ca. 1956	Rear terrace and north side of House	Extant
Bird feeder, with “Mamie” inscription	Gift of D. E. Billman, St. Petersburg, FL	February 1955	Among hemlocks south of Barn	No longer extant
Doormat, front, inscribed with and “E”	Gift of Francis Scott Matthew, Thurmont, MD	April 1955	Front entry door	Extant
*Doormats, rear doors, inscribed with “First Lady” and “The President” (2)	Gift of Francis Scott Matthew, Thurmont, MD	May 1956	Rear terrace doors	Extant
Garden plaque	Unknown	Unknown	Rear terrace flower beds	Extant
Golf flags	Gift of Frank Schuman, Philadelphia Toro	ca. 1956–57	Golf green	Copies of originals extant
Incinerator	Constructed by Charlie Tressler	1956	South of House, between driveway and edge of field	Extant
Lanterns, brass and glass (2)	Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Tucker, Fairfield, CT	March 1955	Each end of rear terrace, mounted on wooden posts	Extant
Martin house	Unknown	ca. 1954–55	Three locations of the Martin house: near driveway parking area, south of house; northeast corner of teahouse; near barn	Copy of original extant
Patio furniture, white cast iron, two benches, table, and four chairs	Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Bolling Jones, Atlanta, GA	August 1955	Rear terrace	Extant
Railroad bell, “Frisco”	Gift of Clark Hungerford, President, San Francisco Railway Company	October 1954	North end of rear terrace wall, on stone base	Extant
Railroad bell, “Wabash”	Gift of Arthur K. Atkinson, president of Wabash Railroad Company	November 1954	South end of rear terrace wall, on stone base	Extant
Stone retaining wall	Built by Walter West and crew	ca. 1954–55	East side of rear terrace	Extant
Sundial, bronze, mounted on artillery shell	Gift of Radio and Television Correspondents	February 1955	Center of east lawn	Extant
Walkways, flagstone on rear terrace	Constructed by Charlie Tressler	1956	Rear terrace, along porch and toward stairs on each end	Extant
Walkway, stepping stones to barbecue/teahouse	Constructed by Charlie Tressler	1956	From rear terrace south steps to barbecue/teahouse terrace, along circular hedge; changed to brick walk ca. 1969	Brick path extant 1969
Wooden planters, and other various pots	Unknown	Unknown	Primarily used on rear terrace, occasionally in front of House	Some extant

*\*Note: There is a discrepancy on the donor for the doormats. James McCown said the mats on the rear terrace were given by Secret Service agents (McCown interview, p. 61). “Gift Books” indicates they were given by Francis Scott Matthews.*



Figure 2.122. New garages and chauffeurs' quarters on the south end of the barn, installation of spruce and hemlocks, unknown date. (Walter West collection, EISE NHS files, #1124.A)

### Area 3: Barn

#### Barn Renovations

Along with the renovations on the house in the mid-1950s, Charlie Tompkins' crew did a considerable amount of work on the barn. On March 13, 1954, the Eisenhowers made a site visit to inspect the construction progress. During this visit, General Eisenhower commented how there was plenty of room in the barn for a garage, referring to attached chicken house on the barn's south end. By the fall of that year, Tompkins implemented this idea and the old chicken coop was converted into a garage and chauffeur's apartment.<sup>203</sup> (fig. 2.122) The milk house on the northern end of the barn was renovated as an office for the Secret Service. Other changes to the barn included the removal of "spires" from the tops of the three roof cupolas and two silos which had been located on the barn's northwest corner. By the spring of 1955, renovations to the barn's stables had been completed, fencing in the barn lot had been repaired or replaced. And a portion of the barn lot had been filled using material obtained from a Gettysburg construction project.<sup>204</sup>

During General and Mrs. Eisenhower's February 1955 inspection of the completed home, Tompkins' workmen were in process of completing the barn renovations with the installation of a new tin roof. It was during

this visit that Eisenhower decided to change the barn color. Realizing that the red barn did not complement the newly painted white house, General Eisenhower had a special shade of grayish-green paint mixed for the barn. The paint was provided by the Varicraft Paint Company. With Mrs. Eisenhower's approval, the barn was repainted this new custom shade. The barn remained this color throughout the Eisenhowers' ownership.<sup>205</sup>

#### Vegetation Around Barn

Two large trees were placed near the barn during the initial landscaping of the farm. A sugar maple was installed on the building's southwest corner and a red maple was planted slightly northwest of this, just across from the guesthouse entry. (figs. 2.123, 2.124) Both trees were large specimens, requiring the use of a tree spade for installation. The sugar maple was a gift from Rockefeller and was included with the donation of the other large trees around the new home. It is unknown whether he also funded the installation of the red maple.

To improve the trees' chances of survival, West and his crew installed a system of drain tiles before planting. Because this area contained a considerable amount of ledgerrock lying just below the soil, water would have been trapped in the planting hole and drowned the newly installed trees. To remedy this, two sets of drain tiles were installed from this area to the flagpole, running underneath the east lawn. Another pipe was routed under the barn, directing the water to the barn's eastern side.<sup>206</sup>

At some unknown date between 1954 and 1965, the original sugar maple died and was removed. A replacement tree was installed in 1965. It is probable that this was also a sugar maple since the 1969 plan shows a sugar maple in this location, as well as the original red maple nearby.<sup>207</sup>

Another tree on the western side of the barn was a white birch (*Betula species*) installed by West in early 1956 near the barn bridge. Records show that the people of Laconia, New Hampshire had given the Eisenhowers a birch around this time and it is probable this was that gift.<sup>208</sup> It is unknown how long the original tree survived, but given birches are generally short-lived, it is unlikely it lived past the early to mid-1960s. No trees were shown in this location on the 1967 plan, but by 1969 another birch was extant in this area.<sup>209</sup>



Figure 2.123. Installing a mature maple beside the barn with a tree spade, Butts Tree Movers from Cairo, NY, unknown date. (Walter West collection, EISE NHS files, #1118)

South of the barn, along the garage parking area, a screen of trees was installed to mask the view from the house toward the barn. West and his crew worked on this project in the fall of 1954, at the same time the maples were installed near the barn. Two species of evergreen trees, Norway spruce and Canada hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), were used for screening. Four of the spruce trees were a gift to the Eisenhowers from Hershey Estates. Hershey also provided a gardener to assist with the installation of these trees and some other additional shrub donations. Six spruces were donated by Rockefeller, and three hemlocks came from the National Capital Flower Show.<sup>210</sup> (figs. 2.125, 2.126)

After the trees had been installed for a time West and his crew began to underplant with shrubs and flowers. Rhododendrons were dug from the mountains near Camp David and transplanted into this bed. Periwinkle was installed as a groundcover and became so prolific much of it eventually had to be removed. Azaleas were introduced to the bed at an unknown date, primarily low-growing varieties, along with many King Alfred daffodils. The bed soon became a catch-all for various flower and shrub donations and West recalled whenever plants were received from the National Capital Garden and Flower Show, some of them often ended up in this bed.<sup>211</sup>



Figure 2.124. Recently installed maple near barn with wrapped trunk, view southeast from guesthouse porch, July 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3236)



Figure 2.125. Spruce and hemlock tree screen soon after installation, boxwoods on rear terrace in foreground, view to northeast, unknown date. (Walter West collection, EISE NHS files, #1116)



Figure 2.126. Tree screen at barn approximately one year after installation, no shrubs have been installed, fall 1955. (EISE NHS files, #1176)



Figure 2.127. Mature trees in screen underplanted with shrubs, view across lawn to west, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, two images combined into panorama, EISE NHS files)



Figure 2.128. Tree screen, guesthouse, and garage, view toward west, spruce and lilac adjacent to garage, right of photo, 15 November 1955. (Paul Roy, Gettysburg Times, EISE NHS files, #2257)

By the late 1960s the evergreens in this bed were mature and had grown into a dense screen. Historic photographs show the bed beneath the trees' canopy was fully planted with shrubs and had a slightly overgrown appearance, perhaps due to lack of adequate maintenance. (fig.2.127) Although the 1969 plan did not identify individual plantings in the bed, it did document two bridalwreath spirea located in the lawn just outside the western edge of the bed.

On the eastern side of the barn, vegetation added during the initial landscaping included a Norway spruce and lilac. (fig. 2.128) The spruce was planted at the southeast corner of the garage when the evergreen screen was installed and the lilac was placed slightly to the northeast of the spruce. In December 1955, several redwood trees (*Sequoia sempervirens*) were donated to the Eisenhowers. One of these was planted on the eastern

side of the barn, but it only survived a few years. A Japanese cryptomeria (*Cryptomeria japonica*) was planted as a replacement for the redwood, but it also died after a short time.<sup>212</sup> By the late 1960s, the spruce and lilac were still extant. Additionally, a row of boxwoods had been planted at the base of the small concrete retaining wall on the barn's eastern side.<sup>213</sup>

The area north of the barn was still considered a working barnyard even after the Eisenhower renovations. As a result, there was little ornamental vegetation installed in this area, or around the adjacent Secret Service office, which had formerly been the milk house. The barnyard was surfaced in crushed shale and surrounded by wooden barn fencing. By the late 1960s the only plantings in this area was a row of climbing roses along the western fence, on either side of the gas pumps.

### Guesthouse

General and Mrs. Eisenhower's guesthouse, located between the home and barn, had originally been used as a garage by the Reddings. (fig. 2.129) During the farm renovations, Charlie Tompkins' workmen converted this structure into a two-bedroom, one-bathroom guesthouse. After the original renovations were completed early in 1955, the entrance to the new guesthouse consisted of a small covered stoop on the north side of the building with gravel paths leading towards the barn and driveway. Sometime before early 1958, this entry was modified into an eight-foot wide covered porch extending the entire width of the guesthouse. Two items of note that Tompkins incorporated during the porch modification were the iron railing, which was taken from Mrs. Eisenhower's childhood home in Denver, and a rooftop bell and belfry, which had been relocated from the nearby



Pitzer Schoolhouse.<sup>214</sup> An unpaved gravel path led from the front porch of the guesthouse north toward the barn, and around the eastern corner to the garage area. Over \$11,000 was spent on the renovations of this structure alone, primarily because of General Eisenhower's insistence on using union labor.<sup>215</sup>

West and his crew designed and installed the plantings around the guesthouse, finishing up in the summer of 1956. (fig 2.130) A lilac was planted on the northwest corner, a group of five white pines were installed on the south side, and planting beds were placed along the south and east foundations. The beds were filled with a variety of flowers and shrubs, including peonies (*Paeonia species*), azaleas, roses, daffodils, and other bulbs. Some of the daffodils eventually placed here had been originally located in the flower bed by the old well. These were replanted at the guesthouse when the Confederate bones were discovered.<sup>216</sup> Also, in 1955, prior to the guesthouse completion, a circle of twelve dark red azaleas had been installed by Berkey in the lawn just southwest of the group of pines.<sup>217</sup>

The beds around the guesthouse were often used to hold extra roses from the east rose garden. At times the Eisenhowers would receive gifts of two or three roses of the same variety. One would be placed in the east rose garden and the extras would be planted around the guesthouse. If a plant died in the east garden, or Mrs. Eisenhower gave a bush away to visitors as she often did, a replacement would be available to transplant from the guesthouse beds.<sup>218</sup>

Given the repeated planting of bulbs and flowers, and removal of roses over the years, these beds saw continual change in their mix of plant materials. It is probable that few, if any, of the original plantings lasted very long. The exception to this would have been the white pine and lilac. However, by 1969, only two of the original five white pines were extant and the lilac was not shown



Figure 2.129. Redding garage prior to remodeling into the Eisenhowers' guesthouse, garage to right of photo, view toward south along entry drive, spring 1954. (Gettysburg Times, EISE NHS files, #2790)



Figure 2.130. Guesthouse, west facade, before porch addition, dogwood planted along wall, white pines at southern end, 1 July 1955. (EISE NHS files, #3218)



Figure 2.131. Mature white pines on south end of guesthouse, May 1966. (Eisenhower Family Collection, EISE NHS files, #3436)



on the historic plan. An unidentified shrub had been marked in its place on the earlier 1967 plan, so either it was overlooked when the 1969 plan was prepared or it had died between November 1967 and July 1969. Also, the circle of azaleas southwest of the guesthouse had been removed. In addition to the original mix of peonies, azaleas, and bulbs used in the beds, several new species had been introduced since the mid-1950s, including violets (*Viola species*), General Eisenhower's favorite flower, wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*), and bridalwreath spirea (*Spiraea prunifolia*). (figs. 2.131-2.133)



Figure 2.132. Guesthouse east facade, after porch addition, Pitzer Schoolhouse bell on roof, iron railing on porch, wisteria along foundation, 8 September 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2155)



Figure 2.133. Guesthouse front facade, path to barn and parking in left foreground, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)

### Storage Building

In 1960, a storage building was constructed on the eastern side of the barn. This building was originally conceived as a storage facility for the enormous amount of memorabilia and personal gifts General and Mrs. Eisenhower had collected over the years. Storage space in the house was limited, and after the Eisenhowers left the White House, they needed a central location for storage. West and the farm crew participated in the construction of the building along with workers from nearby Camp David. These laborers donated their personal time to General Eisenhower for this project because they held him in such high regard. Eisenhower designed the building, and West marked the footprint on the ground according to Eisenhower's wishes. After Eisenhower saw the proposed layout, he said it was not big enough. They adjusted the length of the building to make it about ten feet longer. However, it was not to remain the new size for long. According to West, after work had started and the trenches had been dug for the footings, "Bang! Here come somebody wantin' Mamie to learn how to drive a Valiant." They had to have a place to store the car, so Eisenhower added another twenty or so feet to the north end of the building for a garage.<sup>219</sup>

Upon completion, the building measured approximately eighteen feet wide by eighty feet long. It was constructed of cinder block walls, plastered on the inside, and had a poured concrete floor. Other features included a furnace, a dehumidifier, and a restroom. The storage facility was accessed by one door, centered on the south end of the building. A concrete walkway connected this door with the parking area on the barn's south end. The garage area, in the northern end of the building, originally had a gravel floor. A concrete floor was added in the mid-



1960s. Brick on the interior garage walls came from the demolition of a Gettysburg building. A standard garage door was placed on the northwest end of the building, facing the barn, and an additional entry door was installed on the building's north end.<sup>220</sup> (figs. 2.134, 2.135)

Although this was primarily a utilitarian building, West did install some landscaping around the structure to soften the edges and blend it with the surrounding landscape. Shrubs were planted at the south entry, along the eastern foundation, and on the northwest corner of the building. Species used included common boxwood, Japanese holly, Canada yew (*Taxus canadensis*), and English yew (*Taxus baccata*). In the mid-1960s, a star magnolia had been planted just south of the entrance to the storage building, but it did not survive long. By the late 1960s, plantings were still evident at these locations. However, on the eastern side of the building, fewer shrubs were extant than had been originally installed.<sup>221</sup> (fig. 2.136)

The 1969 plan only identified three small trees on the eastern side of the building, including a weeping cherry (*Prunus subhirtella 'Pendula'*) adjacent to the building and two pin cherries (*Prunus pennsylvanica*) planted closer to the eastern field.<sup>222</sup>

Architecturally, the storage building remained relatively unchanged from its construction until the late 1960s. The only changes came after Eisenhower's death in 1969 when the Secret Service modified part of the building for security use. At this time, the garage door was moved from the northwest corner to the northern end of the building.<sup>223</sup>

#### Adenauer Rose Garden

In 1955, Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, gave General and Mrs. Eisenhower 200 hybrid tea roses. This gift came after Adenauer's



Figure 2.134. Storage building, south and east facades, various shrubs along foundation and weeping cherry adjacent to east facade, 8 September 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2832)



Figure 2.135. Storage building north and west facades, original garage door on northwest corner, 8 September 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2828)



Figure 2.136. Storage building east facade from Nevins Lane, showing that the east foundation originally featured more foundation shrubs, May 1962. (Robert Hartley, EISE NHS files, #3128)

earlier trip to the farm during a state visit. The shrubs were delivered in December for early spring planting and were all the variety of the General Eisenhower Rose. Some of the bushes were used in front of the house, although it is not known exactly where they were installed, while others were undoubtedly used in the east rose garden. After the construction of the storage



building in 1960, a new rose garden was planted between the barn and storage building. This garden was devoted entirely to the General Eisenhower Rose and most of the remaining shrubs were likely moved to this location.<sup>224</sup>

The Adenauer rose garden became a permanent fixture in the landscape during the 1960s. The roses in this bed were primarily for the ornamental landscape and were rarely used for cut flowers like the roses in the east garden. The bushes were maintained at a height of around twenty-seven inches to promote compact, bushy plants with plenty of blossoms.<sup>225</sup> Additional General Eisenhower Roses were probably added to the garden as older plants died. In the mid-1990s, cuttings from these originals were sent to Jackson-Perkins to be grafted onto new root stock. The plants were returned to the site and the original size of the rose bed was re-established.

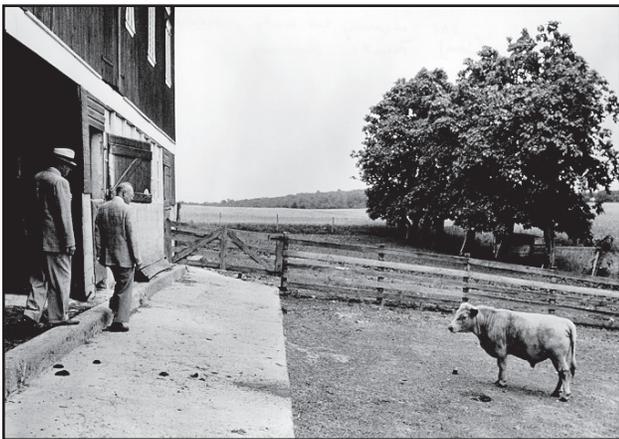


Figure 2.138. Catalpa row near future location of Quonset hut, 11 June 1952. (EISE NHS files, #2229)



Figure 2.137. Quonset hut and catalpa row, view toward north across eastern lawn and putting green. (EISE NHS files, "Gift Books")

### Quonset Hut

In June 1955, a corrugated steel Quonset hut was presented to General Eisenhower by James H. Berkey. The building was provided by Berkey's company, Arlington Light Steel Structures, Inc., of Arlington, Virginia, and the Stran-Steel Corporation. Berkey's father, E. L. Berkey had been the supervisory foreman on the renovation of the Eisenhower Farm. The building was intended as storage for small farm equipment, and apparently Eisenhower had expressed interest in acquiring such a structure.<sup>226</sup> In a thank-you note to Berkey, Eisenhower stated, "I know that your father has told you how much we needed a structure of this kind; and I hope he will also personally report to you how grateful I am for your kindness and generosity. The structure was much needed as an aid to our farming operations."<sup>227</sup>

The twenty-five feet by thirty feet building was placed along the farm lane, northeast of the barn, behind an existing row of eight catalpas. These trees were extant in this location during the Reddings' ownership. When General Eisenhower purchased the property in the early 1950s, the size of these trees indicated they were probably planted in the early twentieth century. (figs. 2.137, 2.138) These trees were the only vegetation associated with the Quonset hut. Since it was strictly a utilitarian building, no special attention was paid to the landscape surrounding it. The Quonset hut, and seven of the catalpa trees were still extant in the late 1960s.

### Small-scale Features

#### Air Conditioning Compressor

During construction a new air conditioning system was installed in the Eisenhower home. The compressor for this system was originally located in the basement of the house. However, it made such a loud noise when it was running that it could be heard all throughout the building. The decision was made to move it and it was relocated to the southeast corner of the barn. The wiring and piping were buried approximately sixteen inches underground. The connections ran under the pavement, across the lawn, and into the house through the northeast corner of the crawlspace. By the late 1960s, the original compressor had been replaced, but the location at the corner of the barn remained the same as the original.<sup>228</sup>



## Bird Coop

A wire bird coop and small wooden roosting house was attached to the south side of the Quonset hut in the early 1960s, shortly after the building was installed. General Eisenhower used the coop for two types of birds, game birds, like quail and pheasant, and domestic chickens for the farm table. The game birds were raised and then set loose on the farm for Eisenhower's hunting enjoyment. Whitecross chickens were kept in the coop until they were marketable size. They were then killed, dressed, and quick-frozen for later use by Delores Moaney in the kitchen. By the mid-1960s, the coop was no longer used for birds but was occasionally used as a dog pen. By the late 1960s, the coop and roosting house were extant, although the area was very overgrown and had obviously been neglected for some time.<sup>229</sup> (fig. 2.139)



Figure 2.139. Quonset hut and bird coop, overgrown vegetation, view toward northeast, 8 September 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2838)

Robbie stayed at the farm until Eisenhower's death when he was given to Secret Service agent Jerry Terry.<sup>232</sup>

## Dog Pens

A number of different dogs were owned by General and Mrs. Eisenhower and housed at the farm. Two English setters named George and Art were the first of the Eisenhowers' Gettysburg dogs.<sup>230</sup> A red spaniel was there for a short time, and then a border collie called Duke. Two of the dogs best remembered on the farm were Heidi and Hogan, female and male Weimaraners given to the Eisenhowers as gifts. General Eisenhower kept the female and gave the male to Walter West's wife, Margie. West recalled how Hogan got his name:

*We named him Rommel because he was in everything...he was like a desert rat....So I was at the farm on day with [Eisenhower] and he said, 'How do you like the dog?' And I said, 'Oh, I really like [him].' I said, 'Come here Rommel.' He said, '...what'd you call him?...not that name on this farm!...Got him with the AKC?,' and I said, 'Yes sir.' He said, 'What'd it cost?' I said, 'Six dollars.' 'Here,' he said, 'Here's six dollars. Change his name.' And I said, 'OK. What shall I call him?' He said, 'Call him Ben Hogan.' I said, 'His name will be Ben Hogan.' And he was Hogan ever since.<sup>231</sup>*

The last dog General Eisenhower acquired was a Border Collie named Robbie. During a train station stop on a return trip from California, a man showed the puppy to Eisenhower. He asked Eisenhower if he would like the dog when he was weaned, and Eisenhower told him yes. A few months later, the dog was shipped to the farm.

To accommodate these various dogs, several dog pens and houses were constructed underneath the catalpa row near the Quonset hut. The first pen and house was built by West in 1956 for Art and George. Another pen and house was completed by the end of the year, and then in 1957, a house and pen for Heidi and Hogan was added. The pens were approximately seven by ten feet and built with woven wire fencing supported by wooden posts. They were set back from the wooden farm fence along the catalpa row, allowing the farm fence to be easily painted. The pens were not connected to each other and each had a separate gate on the eastern side. Heidi and Hogan's pen also had some wire around the inside top to keep Hogan from jumping over the fence. Each house was placed in the pen on a small concrete pad. The houses were slightly smaller than the pads, allowing the rain to fall off the roof onto the concrete, not the dirt. Scrap lumber from the home construction was used to build the doghouses. They were double-walled, insulated, and had ventilation in the roof eaves. Two of the houses had a single door. The third house originally had a single door, but an additional door was added when Heidi had a litter of puppies. As the puppies grew, they were separated from Heidi's part of the house by a wooden partition so that she would not harm them by crushing them. Hay was used for bedding. It had been treated for ticks and fleas and was replaced every couple of weeks.<sup>233</sup> (fig. 2.140)

The pens and houses were used for several years, but by 1969 they had been removed. The three concrete doghouse pads were the only evidence of the dog pens and houses remaining in the landscape.



Figure 2.140. Dog pens and house under catalpa row near Quonset but, view toward southwest, fall 1955. (EISE NHS files, #2925)



Figure 2.141. Citgo gas pumps near barn. (Photo by OCLP, 2002)

### Fire Hydrant

To provide the new home and farm buildings with fire protection, a fire hydrant was installed just south of the guesthouse. A six-inch pipe connected the main water line from town with the hydrant near the entry drive. The hydrant was shown on the 1967 plan.<sup>234</sup>

### Gas Pumps

Two Cities Service gasoline pumps were installed north of the barn on the western side of the barnyard sometime in early to mid-1955. When Eisenhower purchased the farm, there was already one gas pump located at the Reddings' garage. This pump stayed until the two new ones were added. Correspondence between General Eisenhower and Nevins indicated the primary use of the new pumps would be for the farm equipment. Nevins recommended installing two on the farm. Eisenhower replied one pump should be on Farm #1 and the other on Farm #2. As for their location, Eisenhower told Nevins he preferred a site on Farm #1 "near the east end of the garage area," where it "would be handy for the cars." He also said that there could be "a little planting around it if necessary." Eisenhower did not indicate a preference for siting of the pump on Farm #2. In the end, two pumps were installed on Farm #1 west of the barn, not in the location Eisenhower recommended, and another single pump was installed on Farm #2, near the garage. They continued to be used for fueling farm vehicles and machinery until farm operations ceased in the late 1960s. However, the pumps remained on the farm after this time and were used by the Secret Service and for the Eisenhowers' private vehicles.<sup>235</sup> (fig. 2.141)

### Retaining Wall

A small cinder block retaining wall was installed parallel to the eastern side of the barn in the early 1960s. The wall was approximately eighteen to twenty-two inches high and ran the entire ninety-six feet length of the barn, starting at the northeast corner. Constructed approximately twelve feet from the barn, the wall was intended to provide a level access area to the barn's eastern side. By 1969, a row of common boxwood had been planted along the base of the wall.

### Walkways

Around the same time the tree screen between the barn and house was first installed, an informal stepping stone walkway was constructed between the home's rear terrace and the barn. The path originated at the rear terrace's northern steps, passed through the north flower garden, and ended at the eastern end of the garage parking area. A set of stone steps was also constructed on the north end of the walk to traverse the small slope. By the mid-1960s, two concrete walks had been constructed in the barn area. The concrete walk to the storage building had been installed in 1960 and a three-foot-wide concrete walkway with steps on the north end had replaced the original informal walk to the Eisenhower home. The date of construction of the latter walk is unknown, but it was constructed before 1966. It may have been poured when the storage building walk was installed. (figs. 2.142, 2.143)



## Well

The original Redding barn well remained in use during the early years of the Eisenhowers' ownership, primarily while Nevins was living in the Redding house. This well was located on the western side of the barn at the foot of the earthen ramp. It provided water to the house through an underground pipe. After new home was completed, and the hookup to the city water was installed, the old well was still maintained for occasional use. It provided water for the lawns, flowers, and sometimes



Figure 2.142. Stepping stone path to barn from north stairs on rear terrace, Mrs. Eisenhower greeting guests at a White House staff party, 1 July 1959. (Mary Jane McCaffree, EISE NHS files, #2333)

acted as a backup water supply for the house. The well opening was always kept covered with an unpainted wooden cover.<sup>236</sup>

Table 2.5 provides a comprehensive list of the small-scale features located around the barn. The status of each feature at the end of the Eisenhowers' ownership period is indicated.



Figure 2.143. Concrete walk to barn from north stairs on rear terrace, 27 June 1966. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2415)

TABLE 2.5 SMALL-SCALE FEATURES, AREA 3: BARN				
Item	Source	Date Acquired	Original Location	Status 1967–69
Air conditioning compressor	Installed by Eisenhower during home construction	ca. 1954–55	Southwest corner of Barn	Extant
Bird coop	Constructed by farm staff	ca. 1961	Southern end of Quonset Hut	Extant
Bird houses	Installed by grandson, David Eisenhower	ca. 1954–1955	Tree screen between Barn and House	Unknown
Dog pens	Constructed by farm staff	ca. 1956–57	Underneath catalpa row, northeast of Barn	No longer extant
Fire hydrant	Installed by Eisenhowers during home construction	ca. 1954–55	Lawn south of Guest House, near driveway	Extant
Gas pumps	Unknown - possibly acquired through W. Alton Jones	ca. 1955	North of Barn, along western barnyard fence	Extant
Retaining wall	Constructed by farm staff	early 1960s	Eastern side of barn, along gravel access area	Extant
Walkway	Constructed by farm staff	Stepping stones - ca. 1954 - 55 Concrete - pre 1966	Between rear terrace and Barn	Extant
Well	Installed by the Reddings	1930	West of Barn, at foot of ramp	Extant



## Area 4: South Gardens

### Greenhouses

In early 1955, General Eisenhower's friend Howard Young offered to provide a greenhouse for the farm. Correspondence with greenhouse suppliers indicates the Eisenhowers had already been considering such an installation. Although Eisenhower initially refused the gift, probably to avoid improper appearances, by October of that year he had changed his mind and the offer was accepted. Young provided a new greenhouse with aluminum and glass side walls and roof. The structure was mounted on a wooden knee wall and

measured approximately twelve feet wide by twenty-two feet long. It was placed on a concrete block base just southeast of the house, near the edge of the eastern field, approximately 140 feet away from the windmill.<sup>237</sup>

A second, smaller greenhouse was given to General and Mrs. Eisenhower in March 1956 by W. G. Haddrell of Waldor Greenhouses in Salem, Massachusetts. It was an aluminum frame structure with glass panels extending to the ground and measured approximately twelve feet wide by sixteen feet long. This greenhouse was first displayed at the 1956 National Capital Flower Show as "Ike's Greenhouse." It was presented to the Eisenhowers after Mrs. Eisenhower and her mother attended the show. E.

F. Harloff, Show Manager, presented the greenhouse on Haddrell's behalf. George Off, a top orchid grower from New Jersey, also donated a number of orchids that had been on display in the greenhouse. In a thank you note to Haddrell, Mrs. Eisenhower expressed their appreciation for the gifts, saying she was "more anxious than ever to return to the farm and try our hands at raising orchids and other of our favorite plants."<sup>238</sup>

Originally, it was suggested that the two greenhouses be attached. The smaller one would form an "L" addition to the larger one. However, the original greenhouse had problems with water and wind infiltration soon after its installation. Some glass panes and one corner of the roof had to be replaced by West. Given these problems, it was decided the second greenhouse should be a freestanding structure. It was located on a gravel and cinder block foundation directly south of the original greenhouse. West's crew, along with laborers from the greenhouse company in Massachusetts, set up the greenhouse in April 1956.<sup>239</sup> (figs. 2.144, 2.145)

The greenhouses became invaluable to West for starting seedlings and housing the Eisenhowers' newly acquired orchid collection. The



Figure 2.144. Greenhouses, view toward southeast. (EISE NHS files, "Gift Books")



Figure 2.145. Greenhouses and playhouse, view toward east across vegetable garden, trees along boundary with eastern field in background, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)



larger greenhouse was also used as a “hospital” for Mrs. Eisenhower’s houseplants. After flowering plants like poinsettias and cyclamen were finished blooming in the house, Mrs. Eisenhower would have West take them to the greenhouse where he would give them a “rest.” It was also be used to hold many of the flowers and houseplants Mrs. Eisenhower received as gifts, allowing her to rotate the plants she used in the house. Both greenhouses were used throughout the year. To prevent the extreme build-up of summer heat, West and his crew whitewashed the roof of the larger greenhouse, and the entire smaller one, with a mixture of lime and white cement.<sup>240</sup> (fig. 2.146)



Figure 2.146. Walter West at work in the small greenhouse, no date. (Walter West collection, EISE NHS files, #EE2045)

Several red and black raspberries were planted along the tree line south of the greenhouses. General Eisenhower especially liked these bramble fruits, calling a berry patch “an indispensable part of any farm.” He encouraged Nevins and West to plant many brambles in various places around the farm, and in the spring of 1956 he was given approximately 300 plants for just that purpose.<sup>241</sup> The brambles at the greenhouse, however, were hybrid shrubs collected by West from another location, possibly somewhere near Camp David.

A few trees were planted near the greenhouses after the structures were installed. Two pin cherries were placed directly south of the buildings. A Norway spruce was located on the northwest corner of the larger greenhouse, and a row of white pines was placed along the fence line of the eastern field. The dates of these plantings are unknown.

During General Eisenhower’s retirement years, and after West left the farm, the greenhouses began to be used less and less. Moaney would do a little work in them occasionally, but according to James McCown, “By the time we [the Secret Service] came back in retirement years, they weren’t really using [the greenhouses]. The glass was broken out, a great portion of it, and it was in ill-repair. There wasn’t anyone really to work it and keep it up...but Moaney.”<sup>244</sup> By the late 1960s, both greenhouses were still extant, although they were not being used regularly. Most of the brambles and the Norway spruce were gone. The pin cherries and the row of white pines remained.

### Vegetable Gardens

A vegetable garden was always an important part of the farm’s landscape. Moaney and West were the primary

gardeners, with occasional help from the farm hands, and even David Eisenhower on a few of his summer breaks. Delores Moaney recalled “The general would occasionally pick tomatoes or beans but he didn’t plan for work in the garden.”<sup>245</sup>

The original vegetable garden was located directly south of the house and incinerator in the large field between Farm #1 and Farm #2. It covered nearly the entire area almost to the creek, and from the path between Farm #1 and Farm #2 to the greenhouses. (figs. 2.147, 2.148) Crops that were commonly grown included asparagus, onions, green beans, yellow squash, okra, cantaloupes, watermelons, corn, and potatoes. Four north-south rows of asparagus were planted just west of the greenhouses, extending slightly past the second greenhouse toward the creek. The other rows of the garden were usually planted east to west to take advantage of the sun. In the spring of 1955, the earlier days of the garden, seeds were ordered from W. Altee Burpee Seed Company that included: corn, tomatoes, spinach, kale, lettuce, radishes, cabbage, beets, peas, cucumbers, string beans, watermelon, potatoes, and okra.<sup>246</sup> Many vegetables were produced in this garden, providing produce not only for the farm, but also for the White House and Camp David on occasion. Marigolds and garlic were used to discourage the bugs, while a dilution of Fels Naptha soap and water was used for aphids and other pests. According to West, no other chemicals were used in the vegetable garden.<sup>247</sup>

In the mid-1960s, the garden was scaled-back to include the area only adjacent to the greenhouses. It did not extend west toward the path between Farm #1 and Farm #2 as it had previously.<sup>248</sup> By 1969, the garden plot covered an area of approximately thirty feet by one



Figure 2.147. Spring planting in the vegetable garden, view across garden to west, large sycamore tree background, 1956. (Walter West collection, EISE NHS files, #EE2017)



Figure 2.148. Original extent of the vegetable garden on Farm #1 from greenhouses to southern treeline, aerial of Farm #1 from south, 22 June 1964. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2973)



Figure 2.149. Vegetable gardens, view toward northeast, greenhouses in background, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)

hundred and twenty feet, primarily west and south of the greenhouses. (fig. 2.149)

Water for the vegetable garden and greenhouses was piped-in from the barn well. In September 1954, Berkey had suggested a system of storing rainwater in the old well southeast of the house for use in the gardens. Upon further examination, it was discovered this would cost approximately \$200 more than using water from the barn. A pipeline was installed from the barn well to a pressure tank and pump located in the basement of the house. The water was then pumped to three faucets in the vegetable garden.<sup>249</sup>

### South Rose Garden

To provide extra space for more cutting roses, an additional rose garden was installed south of the house in the mid-1960s.<sup>250</sup> The bed was located on the northern edge of the south field and was approximately four feet wide by one hundred feet long. It extended from just west of the greenhouses to slightly east of the path between Farm #1 and Farm #2. The garden included a variety of floribunda roses. By 1969, this garden was still extant.



### Playhouse

In the summer of 1956, General Eisenhower saw a playhouse that Charlie Tressler had constructed at Floyd Akers' lodge for his grandchildren. Eisenhower was so impressed with Tressler's work, he asked him to design and build a similar one for the Eisenhower grandchildren to use at the farm. Tressler accepted and built the playhouse in seven pieces, including two roof sections, four wall sections, and the floor. The pieces all bolted together for ease of transport and assembly. When the playhouse was installed next to the greenhouses, the grandchildren loved it, but there was a slight disagreement as to what the structure would be used for. Tressler recalled,

*the boy, David, him and his sister had an awful argument that day. They come just as I got it done...he wanted to use it as a fort...she said they didn't use playhouses for forts! And boys didn't play in playhouses! I could hear 'em arguin' [sic]. I don't know which one won out, but...I didn't hear no more argument the next day when I was up here.<sup>251</sup>*

Eisenhower was thoroughly pleased with the results. In expressing his gratitude to Akers he wrote,

*You and Charlie have combined once again to greatly please the Eisenhowers – of all ages. The grandchildren are delighted with their new playhouse, and of course the rest of us get a great kick out of their earnest domestic efforts. All of us are more than grateful to you.<sup>252</sup>*

And to Tressler he added,

*You could not possibly have done anything to please them more – especially Anne and Susie. (David is currently fighting all over again the Battle of Gettysburg). To their thanks I add also the appreciation of the elder Eisenhowers for your great kindness.<sup>253</sup>*

The playhouse continued to be used by the grandchildren until the early 1960s. After this the building was used for storage. The playhouse was extant in 1969 and identified on the plan as a “tool shed.” (fig. 2.150)

### Nut Trees

In 1956, a donation of several walnuts (*Juglans species*) and a few pecans (*Carya illinoensis*) were planted on the property line between Farm #1 and Farm #2, approximately fifty yards northeast of the stream crossing between the two farms. The Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association coordinated this planting by soliciting a tree or seedling from each state association. Two other donations of nut trees were also made in 1956 and may have been installed in the same location. Although many of the trees had died by the late 1960s, a few of the originals were still extant.<sup>254</sup>

### Septic System

When the Eisenhower farmhouse was constructed, a new septic system was installed to service the building. A large tank was buried south of the house and a leach field was located under the vegetable garden. The system required frequent maintenance, such as keeping the grease trap cleaned out. This responsibility fell to West and his crew. The septic system was still in use by the late 1960s.<sup>255</sup>

### Small-scale Features

#### Security Lights

The Secret Service installed security lights along the edge of the eastern field under the row of white pines. These

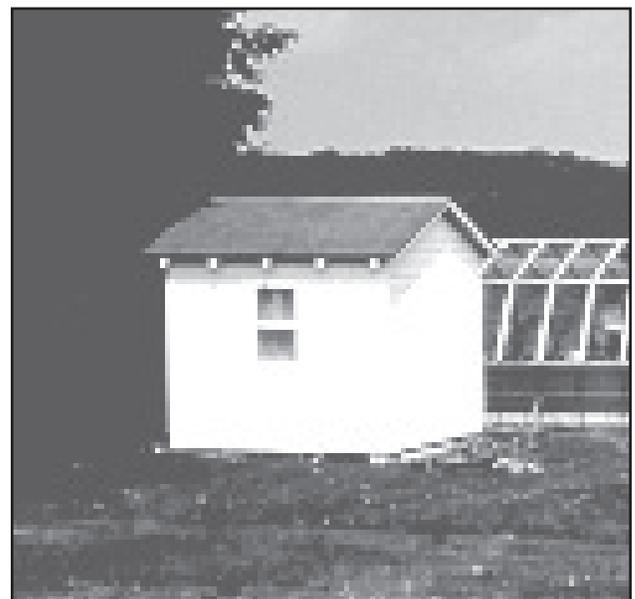


Figure 2.150. Detail of playhouse, western facade, white clapboards and red shingle roof, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)



Figure 2.151. Aerial of Farm #1 from south, detail of south gardens including (from left of photo) path to Farm #2, telephone pole, concrete foundation for south guardhouse, Martin house, south rose garden, incinerator, vegetable gardens, playhouse, and greenhouses, 9 August 1967. (A. J. Parsonese, US Marine Corps, EISE NHS files, #2988)

lights were the same style as the ones used along the front entry drive and were intended to provide illumination to the eastern field. The lights were still present in the late 1960s.

#### Walkways

Walkways located in the south gardens included a dirt path running in front of the playhouse and greenhouse, and a gravel walk along the northern side of the south rose garden. The dirt path first began to be used when the greenhouses and the playhouse were initially installed in the mid-1950s. By the late 1960s, this remained an informal dirt path. The gravel path along the rose garden was installed in the mid-1960s to provide better access to the rose bed, but by 1969, only a trace of the path remained.

Another walkway located in this area was the path between Farm #1 and Farm #2. This path had originally been a road when the Eisenhowers bought the property. During the renovations, the road was used for construction access to the site. After construction on the house was completed, the road was removed and an informal pedestrian path was left to connect the

two farms. This path remained unpaved and informal throughout the Eisenhowers' ownership of the farm. (fig. 2.151)

Table 2.6 provides a comprehensive list of the small-scale features located in the south gardens. The status of each feature at the end of the Eisenhowers' ownership period is indicated.

#### Area 5: Orchard

The orchard on Farm #1 had been in use for many years before Eisenhower bought the property. It is not known if there was an orchard in this location before the Reddings' ownership, but by the early 1950s several mature fruit trees were present in the pasture north of the barn. (fig. 2.152) After acquiring the farm, General Eisenhower was highly interested in improving the orchard, although by this time the trees' production was decreasing. According to Ethel Wetzell, Eisenhower's administrative assistant during the early 1960s, "The General was very interested in having some fruit around. He liked the trees, he liked the blossoms, and he liked the fruit."<sup>256</sup>



Item	Source	Date Acquired	Original Location	Status 1967–69
Security lighting	Secret Service	ca. 1954–55	Eastern field edge, along white pine row	Extant
Walkway, dirt path to greenhouses and playhouse	Unknown	ca. 1955–56	Northern side of greenhouses and playhouse	Extant
Walkway, gravel path along south rose garden	Unknown	mid-1960s	Northern edge of south rose garden	Partially extant
Walkway, path between Farm #1 and Farm #2	Removal of road during initial construction	ca. 1954–55	Along western field edge, from Farm #1 driveway to Farm #2	Partially extant, no surfacing

West and the other farm hands were not experienced in orchard management so General Eisenhower had to find assistance elsewhere to improve his orchard. Mrs. Wetzel's husband ran an orchard in eastern Pennsylvania, so he provided assistance by pruning the trees occasionally and giving advice. Eisenhower also went to Agricultural Extension at Pennsylvania State University for spraying schedules, soil tests, and other pertinent information. His fruit production did improve somewhat, but it was never considered high-quality. This lack of success was likely caused by two circumstances. First, the trees were past peak production age and the entire orchard should have been replaced. And second, the soil at the farm was not as conducive to fruit production as the soil in other areas of Pennsylvania. Besides these problems, Eisenhower also had trouble keeping the birds away from the fruit, especially the cherries. Mrs. Wetzel recalled Eisenhower's solution was "to have his little trees covered with cheesecloth so the birds couldn't get to the cherries. But that doesn't work too well and in the final analysis he never had as many cherries as he would have liked."<sup>257</sup>

Despite the obstacles, Eisenhower persevered and West installed several additional fruit trees over the years, including apples (*Malus species*), peaches (*Prunus persica*), and cherries (*Prunus species*). Varieties chosen were well adapted to the local conditions. Additional fruit trees were given as gifts to General and Mrs. Eisenhower including a spring 1955 gift of an apple, cherry, grape, and peach from the Michigan Young Republican Men and the Michigan Fruit Growers. Other recorded gifts included a May 1956 donation of several cherries by Mr. William B. Powell of the National Red Cherry Institute in Chicago, Illinois, and a peach tree donated by the White House Correspondents and Photographers in July 1956. Eventually the orchard contained approximately

one dozen apple trees, four peach trees, and several cherry trees.<sup>258</sup>

Besides the birds eating the cherries, the other major pest problem in the orchard was the repeated infestation of Japanese beetles. To combat this, West used powdered lime on the leaves and maintained a regular schedule of preventative spraying as recommended by the county agent. He sprayed every two weeks from bloom time until about two weeks before harvest. Some of the chemicals commonly used included malathion, captan, and zineb.<sup>259</sup> An application of dormant oil was used in the fall to prevent infestation of scale. Additionally, the trees were pruned once a year and maintained at a height of six to six-and-a-half feet to allow for easier fruit harvesting. All cuttings from the orchard were burned to prevent the spread of any disease or insect.<sup>260</sup>

By 1969 the orchard contained twenty-four fruit trees, including sixteen apples, six peaches, and two nectarines



Figure 2.152. Established orchard north of the barn, upper left corner of photo, no fence between orchard and pasture, aerial view toward northeast, spring 1955. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2990)



Figure 2.153. Winter view of orchard, aerial from north, orchard fenced off from surrounding pasture, ca. 1960s. (Robert Hartley collection, EISE NHS files #3102)



Figure 2.154. Orchard from entry drive, view toward east, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)

(*Prunus persica* 'Nectarina').<sup>261</sup> There were no remaining cherries. Several other non-fruiting trees were located in the orchard. Seven tulip poplars, three flowering dogwoods, and one Canadian hemlock were growing in a small grove on the eastern side of the orchard, close to the horse pasture fence. Given their size, these trees had probably been in this location since the early 1960s. (figs. 2.153, 2.154)

## Area 6: Pastures and Fields

### Skeet Range

The skeet range was a gift to General Eisenhower from W. Alton Jones in 1956. With equipment provided by the Orendorff Company, the facility's installation was completed by the spring of the year. Originally Jones

has wanted to provide Eisenhower with a skeet range and "quail walk." However, the finished range was slightly different and included a skeet range and trap shoot. The facilities were laid out in a semi-circle with the shooting directed toward the north. Three small buildings were located at the site. One released high targets, one released low targets, and one contained equipment and storage space. The high and low houses were constructed of brick; the control building was constructed of wood. Individual shooting stations were evenly spaced between the buildings along the connecting concrete walks.<sup>262</sup> (figs. 2.155, 2.156)

There were no ornamental plantings around the skeet range. The pasture grass in the area immediately surrounding the facilities was kept mown when the range was in use. On a few occasions, the area was planted with corn. In order to provide as much site-grown feed as possible for his cattle operation, General Eisenhower made sure every available area was planted. Apparently this did not interfere with the operation of the range.<sup>263</sup>

Eisenhower and his friends, Jones, Allen, and Nevins, used the skeet range quite frequently during the mid-to late 1950s. According to Nevins, Eisenhower was the best at hitting the targets, followed by Jones, then Allen, with himself "in very bad thirds or fourths."<sup>264</sup> Eisenhower occasionally allowed the Secret Service agents to use the range for target practice, primarily to help keep the equipment operational. McCown recalled that at least four or five times Eisenhower had the agents come to the range and use his shotguns. The range saw the most use while Eisenhower was still in office and he would visit the farm on weekends. He would often bring friends along and invite them to shoot with him. After moving to the farm permanently, his usage of the facility decreased, and after 1965, the skeet range was rarely used. The facility was still extant in 1969, although some of the equipment was not in working order.<sup>265</sup>

### Equipment Shed

In early 1964, General Eisenhower decided to construct an equipment shed on the farm to store tools and large machinery. He inquired with the Stran-Steel Company about obtaining a prefabricated building, similar to the Quonset hut. During this time, he was spending the winter in California, so Nevins handled the details of the project while corresponding with Eisenhower. In



Figure 2.155. Skeet range with benches, shot boxes, and posts, view toward west, equipment shed in right rear of photo, 8 September 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2149)

one note Eisenhower explained what he had in mind for the building, saying, “It seems to me that our needs are quite simple; involving only a shed for tool preservation. The south or southeast front of such a shed could be completely open in my opinion.”<sup>266</sup>

Eventually, it was decided not to use a prefabricated building, but to build a custom shed just west of the skeet range. Bob Hartley, Eisenhower’s chief herdsman, recommended this site because it was in a central location and there was already an access road in place. Eisenhower agreed with Hartley’s recommendation. Construction of the shed was undertaken while General and Mrs. Eisenhower were still in California. Victor Re, a local contractor who had completed previous work for Eisenhower, and Hartley supervised the work. The thirty-foot by eighty-foot shed was constructed of three wood-framed sides atop a four-course concrete block foundation. A metal roof covered the shed. The interior had a ceiling height of twelve feet and was divided into six bays. At Eisenhower’s suggestion, the shed was painted white to match the buildings at the adjacent skeet range.<sup>267</sup> (fig. 2.157)

After the Eisenhowers returned from California, Mrs. Eisenhower said she did not like the placement of the equipment shed. It was too noticeable from the house, especially the glaring metal roof. Hartley recalled “as soon as she got home we had to plant trees all around it and paint the roof.”<sup>268</sup> Trees were installed at the building’s western end to provide the screening. The equipment shed and many of the trees were still extant and relatively unchanged in 1969.



Figure 2.156. Detail of shot box, view toward east, May 1969. (W. E. Dutton, EISE NHS files)



Figure 2.157. Detail of equipment shed, view toward northeast, 1967. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2151)

### Pond

After the Eisenhowers acquired the farm, one of the first features they added to the site was a pond. Records documenting the exact date of construction of the pond have not been found, but references to the pond in Eisenhower correspondence indicate it was constructed



sometime during 1951-52. The pond was located in the nine-acre pasture southwest of the house, adjacent to the existing stream between Farm #1 and Farm #2. (figs. 2.158, 2.159)

One reason for the installation of the pond was General Eisenhower's interest in running a modern farm operation. A healthy pond successfully stocked with fish and waterfowl was considered a key part of a well-rounded farm and would be a worthwhile addition to the farm's landscape. Eisenhower intended to stock the pond, following the most up to date recommendations of agricultural extension. He also had his own ideas about what type of fish would do best. In a 1951 note to Arthur Nevins, Eisenhower expressed his opinion, saying, "While it is entirely possible that trout would do all right in it, I am under the impression that bass, when stocked with blue gills or some other fish of that type, are a hardier type." In the end, however, he left the decision up to the experts, instructing Nevins to "do whatever the State experts tell you is the right thing".<sup>269</sup> The pond was eventually stocked with several different kinds of fish including bass, bluegill, crappie, and perch.<sup>270</sup>

After Walter West came to the farm, the care of the pond became one of his responsibilities. Lacking the knowledge or experience for this task, West relied on the experts General Eisenhower and Nevins had used, along

with additional help from other knowledgeable sources. For example, West would often solicit assistance from David Keefer, the local postmaster of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Keefer was apparently well-versed in pond management. He came to the farm often to give West advice on how to maintain the pond's ecological balance between vegetation, fish, and waterfowl.<sup>271</sup>

Some of the waterfowl introduced to the pond included various duck species, including Mallard, Muscovy, and Rouen, along with an occasional visit by wild Canada geese. (fig. 2.160) Sometimes the ducks would venture up to the main house and lay their eggs in the shrubbery around the rear terrace. Mrs. Eisenhower enjoyed watching them from inside the porch. West recalled Mrs. Eisenhower's excitement when one of the nesting ducks brought her brood to the pond:

*[She] had seventeen little ducklings and she got up and they walked to the pond...Mrs. Eisenhower called and said, 'Oh, Mr. West, come and see this!' And here they come...they had to go down the steps, you know, and they'd waddle, and tumble, and fall, but they went right on with momma down to the pond.*<sup>272</sup>

Although General Eisenhower was interested in keeping the pond adequately stocked with fish, he rarely fished



Figure 2.158. Aerial view of Farm #1 with house, barn, and pond labeled, 27 October 1952. (Gettysburg Times, EISE NHS files, #1177)



Figure 2.159. General Eisenhower standing in the nine-acre pasture near the pond site, 13 June 1952. (EISE NHS files, #1046)



Figure 2.160. Waterfowl in the pond, view toward east, no date. (Walter West collection, EISE NHS files, #EE2041)

in it himself. Most of his fishing was with Charlie Tressler and Floyd Akers on fly fishing expeditions at Akers' lodge. The primary fisherman at the farm was Eisenhowers' grandson, David, who was occasionally accompanied by Moaney or West. (fig. 2.161) West's fishing usually involved monitoring the status of the fish population for Eisenhower. He recalled every so often he would "check it to see who had the most – the bass, or the crappies, or who was being superceded...and I'd show him [Eisenhower] what I caught, and the size, and we'd weigh them and see what they were doing."<sup>273</sup>

A few ducks had been acquired for the pond in the early 1950s, but in 1955 David Keefer, a local game bird breeder, began to supply many additional waterfowl for Eisenhower's pond. In early spring 1955, Keefer gave Eisenhower two mallard pairs and a male wood duck. He also hatched and was raising fifteen other ducklings for the farm. These were released at the pond in May of that year. In July 1956, a dozen additional Mallards were added. Eisenhower wanted to ensure his ducks would remain on the farm, and asked Nevins to inquire about clipping their wings "so they can never fly away from a pond like ours." In response to Eisenhower's concern, Keefer clipped the wings of most of the ducks he provided. He also offered his services to clip Eisenhower's existing birds. The clipping kept most of the ducks at the pond, and they eventually began to nest in the area.<sup>274</sup>

In September 1955, Keefer supplied Eisenhower with two Canada geese. However, these birds did not last long. They became a nuisance to the Secret Service agents, as well as other visitors to the farm. The final blow came when a gander attacked a reporter and broke the skin on the man's leg. General Eisenhower had Nevins get rid of



Figure 2.161. John Moaney and David Eisenhower fishing at the Farm #1 pond, view toward northeast, August 1954. (US Navy, EISE NHS files, #2199)

the geese after this incident.<sup>275</sup> In 1956, Eisenhower was given two swans, but he was not pleased with them either. He said these birds had "particularly bad dispositions and are constantly annoying all the other birds in the pond," preventing them from nesting and killing a few of the ducklings. In a note to Keefer, Eisenhower indicated if the swans were going to stay, they would probably have to build a separate pond for them. The swans were eventually removed.<sup>276</sup>

To enhance the pond, a small amount of landscaping was installed by West's crew around the shoreline. A weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*) was planted to act as a duck blind. Wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*) and water lilies (*Nymphaea speciosus*) were occasionally added to oxygenate the water. The rice was located on the eastern end of the pond and the water lilies were planted in wooden tubs and lowered into the pond.<sup>277</sup> David Keefer added some cattails (*Typha latifolia*) and swamp iris (*Iris speciosus*) at the pond in the spring of 1956. He replenished these plantings in September of the same year. Apparently the waterfowl were pulling the plants out and digging around in the loosened soil. To try and counteract this, Keefer planted the additional iris farther back from the pond edge and placed rocks among the cattails to discourage digging by the waterfowl.<sup>278</sup> Another addition to the pond landscape was the installation of several hundred daffodils. These bulbs were planted by West's crew in the fall of 1955.<sup>279</sup>

An added benefit of having a pond was the reduction in insurance costs for the farm. The pond served as a reservoir that could be used in case of fire. Although a fire hydrant was added to the property, it was thought that this would probably not be sufficient to extinguish a barn fire. The water from the pond was considered



Figure 2.162. Aerial view from south of pond site after pond was removed, middle left of photo, 22 June 1964. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2973)

a supplemental source. A hose cart was used to pump water up from the pond to the house and barn if needed. In order to maintain this equipment, West would often have unannounced fire drills with the grounds crew. They would time how quickly they could run the hose to the pond and make sure that everything was in working order. If a fire ever broke out, they were ready. Thankfully, this training was never put to the real test.<sup>280</sup>

The pond was a fixture in the farm landscape until it was filled-in during the mid-1960s. (figs. 2.162) Several plausible theories have been suggested as to why Eisenhower finally decided to remove the pond. John Eisenhower offered two possibilities. He speculated there was a problem with mosquitoes, and also his mother was frightened of one of the grandchildren getting hurt.<sup>281</sup> When asked about the pond in later years, Mrs. Eisenhower agreed with her son's assessment, saying,

*Now, you see, there was a pond down here. But I understand that David fell in one time. We didn't know it 'till later and immediately we dried it up. The Secret Service said dry it up so...I suppose it was probably mosquitoes or something. But anyway, we dried it up.*<sup>282</sup>

West speculated another reason for the pond's removal was chlordane contamination. This pesticide had been used frequently to kill Japanese beetles in the gardens

and grubs in the lawn. Runoff from the landscape had collected in the pond, leaving chlordane residue. The residue had "killed many of the fish, and the water turned black as ink." Additionally, a drought in the early 1960s diminished the flow of an intermittent stream feeding the pond. Deterioration began around 1962, but when West left the farm in 1963, the pond was still extant.<sup>283</sup>

Another continual problem at the pond was erosion. Soil from the surrounding fields was constantly eroding into the pond and slowly filling it in. As early as 1954, General Eisenhower had to take steps to remove a considerable amount of silt that had collected in the pond.

In a letter to Charlie Tompkins, Eisenhower refers to problem. Eisenhower told Tompkins that if there was any earthmoving equipment on the farm during that summer, Tompkins should "take a look at the large pile of top soil that has accumulated near the dam down by the pool." Eisenhower thought the soil could easily be removed with the right equipment and used on the flower or vegetable gardens.<sup>284</sup> When originally dug, the pond was approximately five-and-a-half feet deep at its center. The continued erosion and silting-in caused the water level to rise, and occasionally the level on the northeast end of the pond would partially cover the adjacent pasture fence.<sup>285</sup> (fig. 2.163)

Eisenhower's decision to fill the pond probably was based on a combination of the reasons mentioned



Figure 2.163. Fence along pond edge inundated by rising water level, no date. (Walter West collection, EISE NHS files, #EE2044)



above. By 1965, the pond was filled. Traces of the pond were still evident in the late 1960s, including the annual reappearance of daffodils along the previous shoreline. The bulbs continued to bloom every spring, even after the pond's removal. The weir and the overflow pipe are also still in the field.

### Farm Animals

#### Horses

General and Mrs. Eisenhower were fond of horses, and as a result quite a few of them could be found on the farm. West remembered as many as eight horses were housed on the site at one time. Additionally, friends of Eisenhower's grandchildren would often ride with them, housing their horses at the farm for a short term. Although Eisenhower enjoyed the horses and rode often in the early years of farm ownership, it was John, Barbara, and the children who took full advantage of the horses. In particular, Eisenhower's granddaughter, Susan, became the best rider of the family. She was quite accomplished at both showing and riding, winning several ribbons over the years.<sup>286</sup>

Around 1954, the first of several gift horses arrived at the farm. Two thoroughbred Morgan quarterhorses, named "Doodle-De-Doo" and "Sporty -Miss," were a gift to Eisenhower from the Quarterhorse Association. Both horses came from Amarillo, Texas. Each of the two mares was in foal when they arrived at the farm. In a short time, Doodle-De-Doo gave birth to a colt, while Sporty-Miss had a filly.<sup>287</sup> (fig. 2.164)

The next horse received by Eisenhower was an Arabian stallion, a gift from the President of Tunisia. West recalled how the horse came to the farm:

*You talk about some Secret Service and Walter West holding their breath! This stallion came over by boat to New York and he was flown from New York to Harrisburg in an airplane. He was picked up there in our cattle truck from the farm and hauled to the farm. The President and all of us was over there to welcome this stallion aboard. And the President said to me, let's saddle him up and see if Susie can ride. And I looked over at the Secret Service agent and he said, 'Are you sure that he means...that horse, this is the first time on terra firma in we don't know when, and we don't know a thing about this stallion.'*



Figure 2.164. General and Mrs. Eisenhower in the Crosley with granddaughters Anne (left) and Susan, grandson David, and "Sporty Miss," 16 September 1956. (EISE NHS files, #3586)

*But undoubtedly, the President had been around that part of the country, I guess during the war, and he saw that a stallion over in that part of the country becomes the Number One of the household – he gets all the fringe benefits. He knew that the stallion was safe. We saddled it and Susie rode it. We named him Sonny Boy.<sup>288</sup>*

Another Arabian, a mare called "Giddy Girl," was presented to Eisenhower by Danny Gainey of the Arabian Horse Association. And finally, "Goldie," a Tennessee Walking Horse, was brought to the farm by George Allen. Goldie was ridden by Susan in many ribbon-winning competitions.<sup>289</sup>

Sonny Boy was bred with Doodle-De-Doo and Sporty-Miss, producing two colts. These horses were named "Iodine" and "Quinine." West thought Iodine was one of the smarter of Eisenhower's horses. He recalled,

*Iodine would follow me like a dog. When I would mow the lawn, I would buy a package of Red Man or Beechnut tobacco and I had a red handkerchief in my pocket when I carried so he'd know I had tobacco in my pocket! And he would reach in there and pick that tobacco out of my pocket and eat it!<sup>290</sup>*

Other horses popular with the Eisenhower grandchildren were the two ponies, "Tony" and "Me-Too." Tony was a small Shetland used primarily for pulling a horse cart for the children. According to West, Tony was not a purebred, was "on the mean side," and could be hard

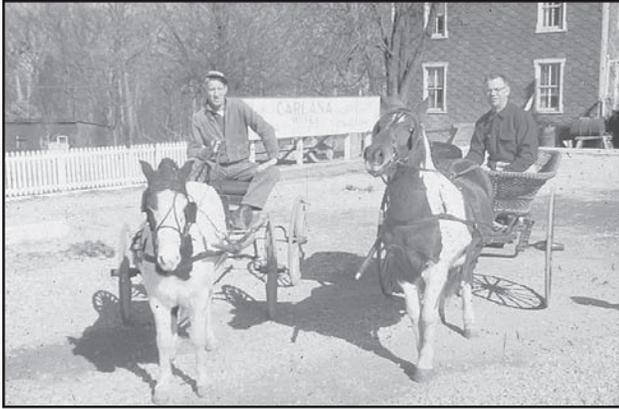


Figure 2.165. Ivan Feaster (left) with “Tony the Pony” and Walter West with “Me Too,” both exercising the ponies with their carts, no date. (Walter West collection, EISE NHS files, #EE2040)



Figure 2.166. Horse riding ring northeast of orchard on Farm #1, upper right corner of photo, 22 June 1964. (Lane Studio, EISE NHS files, #2973)

to control. Me-Too had a sweeter disposition. She was primarily ridden by Susan. Both ponies were housed in the barn on Farm #2.<sup>291</sup> (fig. 2.165)

The horses’ care was the responsibility of West and the farm crew. They rubbed them down, cleaned them, fed them, exercised them and took care of all the regular needs. The horses were sheltered in the barn on Farm #1, in the series of stalls along the barn’s eastern lower side. Originally they were pastured in the nine-acre pasture between Farm #1 and #2. Later, a section of the field northeast of the orchard was fenced and the horses were pastured there. A local veterinarian managed any serious health concerns. To prevent problems from developing with the horses’ feet, Eisenhower insisted each horse have made-to-fit shoes. These were changed regularly by a local blacksmith.<sup>292</sup>

When General Eisenhower first acquired the two quarterhorses from Amarillo, he rode quite frequently, usually at least once a week. In later years, Eisenhower did not ride as often due to a bad knee. Occasionally he would take extended rides into the battlefield and on the farm with guests who were visiting him. After these excursions his knee would give him trouble for awhile. His use of the horses steadily decreased over the years and by the late 1950s, John, Barbara, and the grandchildren were doing the majority of the riding. There is no indication that Mrs. Eisenhower ever rode any of the horses.<sup>293</sup>

To encourage the children’s riding abilities, John and Barbara Eisenhower constructed a horse ring on Farm #1 in the late 1950s. Susan had just started taking lessons from Joe Rose, a local experienced horseman who taught her the ins and outs of riding, jumping, and caring for horses. The ring was located in the pasture northeast of the orchard and was enclosed with a wire fence. Boards were later added to the top of the fence to prevent the horses from injuring themselves while reaching over.<sup>294</sup> A “do-it-yourself” project, Barbara later described the ring as “an eyesore.” However, her father-in-law “left it up there because...he was going to let them be proud of it,” and he also wanted to encourage the grandchildren’s riding. The ring stayed in use until 1964, when John and his family moved from Gettysburg to Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. In the mid-1960s, since the grandchildren were no longer there to use it, Eisenhower had the ring torn down.<sup>295</sup> (fig. 2.166)

After removing the ring, General Eisenhower also decided to get rid of the horses. Since he was no longer riding them regularly, and John and his family had moved, he saw no need to keep them on the farm. A couple of them went to the Valley Forge Military Academy because it was near Phoenixville. This allowed Susan access for riding at her new home. Three horses went to Eisenhower’s secretary Lillian “Rusty” Brown, her niece Barrie Ann, and the daughter of a former Eisenhower employee.<sup>296</sup> There were no horses remaining on the farm by the late 1960s.

#### Other Animals

Several other animals could be found on the farm during the 1950s and early 1960s. The Eisenhowers purchased animals for their own use, like the chickens they raised for the farm table in the late 1950s. However,



most animals arrived at the farm as gifts. Some of the earliest were several Poland China and Berkshire hogs. (fig. 2.167) A few of the hogs became pets rather than market animals. The Feaster children were particularly fond of one of the sows, calling her “Pansy.” The hogs were penned near the barn on Farm #1, close enough to the house to allow Mrs. Eisenhower to see them, but far enough away to prevent the smell from drifting over. In April 1956, a burro named Perrico, who came with registered papers, was given to General Eisenhower as a gift from Franco of Spain. Nevins was never very fond of the burro, considering it “a terrible nuisance, as he kicked and bruised several of the Angus show cattle when inadvertently penned with them.” The burro was occasionally used to pull the small horse cart for grandchildren. He did not stay on the farm long and was eventually given away. Two Cheviot sheep, also gifts, were kept in the barnyard. The sheep were not very compatible with the Angus herd. If they ended up in the same field, the cattle and sheep both would panic until the sheep were captured and removed. None of these animals remained at the farm by the late 1960s.<sup>297</sup>

As mentioned earlier, General Eisenhower was a dog lover and there were several dogs on the farm over the years. He felt just the opposite about cats. He did not like them hanging around the farm. Normally a farmer encourages cats as a deterrent to rodents. However, Eisenhower did not feel this justified having cats underfoot and he instructed the farm hands to “get rid of any stray cats found prowling around the barns and outbuildings.”<sup>298</sup>

An additional animal worth mentioning was Arnold the pig. After Eisenhower’s death in the late 1960s, Moaney obtained a pet piglet and named him Arnold, after a pig on *Green Acres*, one of Mrs. Eisenhower’s favorite TV shows. Mrs. Eisenhower really liked Arnold and gave him the “royal treatment.” The pig was bathed, allowed to come in the house, house-trained, and fed out of a baby bottle. Mrs. Eisenhower’s granddaughter, Mary Jean, remembered an experience with her grandmother that showed just how crazy she was about Arnold:

*One time my niece was sitting on a chair out in the porch with a glass of chocolate milk in her hand. Mimi made her get out of the chair for fear of spilling the chocolate milk and then the pig came along and jumped in it. . . . The niece couldn’t sit there, but the pig was all right.<sup>299</sup>*

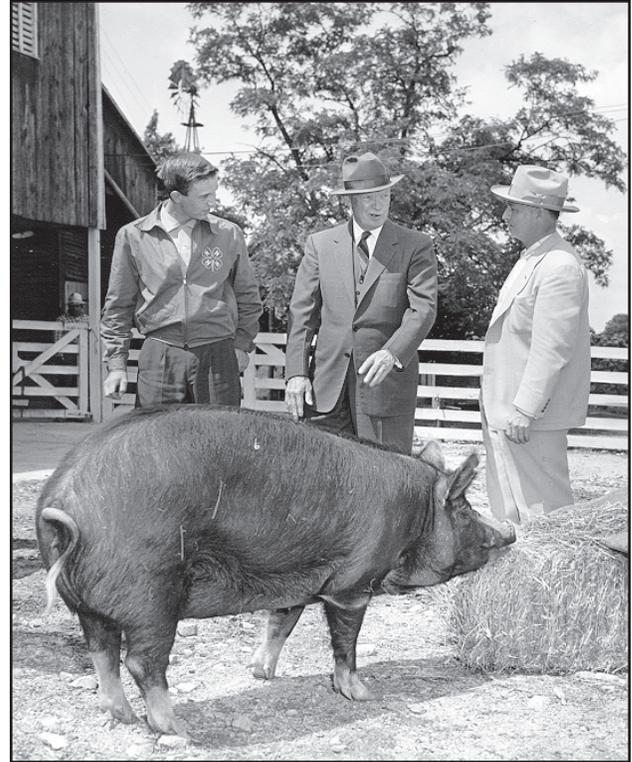


Figure 2.167. General Eisenhower examines a Berkshire Gilt sow with 4-H representative Elden Holsapple (left) and Arthur Nevins, 3 June 1955. (AP/UPI, EISE NHS files, #2545)

### Game Birds

Along with waterfowl, General Eisenhower acquired other types of game birds for the farm. While he was still in the White House, he received a gift of several guineas. These birds made a considerable amount of noise and their time on the farm was short lived.<sup>300</sup> The two types of birds Eisenhower really enjoyed on the farm were pheasants and quail. These birds were hatched, raised, and released in hopes they would establish permanent colonies. This would allow Eisenhower and his friends an opportunity for bird hunting on the property.

David Keefer offered to provide the game birds General Eisenhower wanted for the farm and General Eisenhower accepted his offer. In the summer of 1955, Keefer began raising a large number of quail. By August of that year, the birds were “making short, measured flights in the confines of their pen,” and Keefer planned to release them on the farm around the first or second week of October. He indicated that the quail should survive the winter in “fine condition,” providing there were “feeders placed in cover at points of release.” On September 30, 1955, Keefer released eighty-seven quail



into five different coveys around the farm. Each covey was in an area with sufficient vegetative cover and was provided with a feeding and watering area.<sup>301</sup>

General Eisenhower made a concerted effort to provide the needed coverage and feeding that would enhance the quail's chances for survival. Plenty of brush piles and other vegetative cover were added to the farm's woodland sites. As with his other farm interests, Eisenhower sought out the help of experts on the subject, like Dr. Fred Grove from the University of Maryland. Grove recommended using crown-vetch (*Coronilla varia*) to establish a good groundcover for the game birds. This was planted along the creek and in the wooded area near the Pitzer schoolhouse.<sup>302</sup> Eisenhower was very serious about the success of his quail. During preparations for the 1956 Republican Rally on the farm, Nevins had Feaster and his men clear the wood lot just south of the house in order to improve the farm's appearance. When Eisenhower saw the resulting cleared woodland, he did not approve. He objected because the cover for the game birds had been destroyed. He instructed Nevins to have the crew reestablish brush piles in the lot to restore the lost cover.<sup>303</sup>

Along with the brush piles, many feeders were set out for the quail. The feeders were made of a gallon-sized galvanized metal can with a round peaked roof. Ventilation in the roof prevented the food from becoming mildewed. A dozen or so of these feeders were placed in wooded locations around the farm and refilled weekly. During the winter, water was provided for the birds in shallow trays about two to three inches deep.<sup>304</sup>

General Eisenhower also obtained game birds from various other sources. Additional quail were provided by an Indiana supplier. Some were also acquired from China, but the Chinese quail did not survive as well in the local climate. Most of the quail, however, did particularly well on the farm. They were scattered in several coveys, with one large covey that ranged primarily around the stream between Farm #1 and Farm #2. The coveys produced many chicks.

Several pheasants were given to Eisenhower by Michigan Senator Sophie Williams. These birds were larger and had more colorful plumage than the native Pennsylvania pheasant. Eisenhower

used these to cross-breed with the native birds to produce a higher quality bird for release on the farm.<sup>305</sup> Keefer monitored the progress of all the game birds while Eisenhower continued to enjoy their presence at his home. In one of his many notes to Keefer, Eisenhower said, "I assure you I get much pleasure from observing the various birds – all of whom, I have discovered, have individual and fascinating characteristics."<sup>306</sup>

Although Eisenhower encouraged feeding the quail, he was not so concerned about the pheasants. However, he did instruct West and the farm hands to watch for pheasant nests when working in the fields in order to save the eggs. West recalled,

*when the farm hands mowed the hay, they rigged up a...galvanized pipe that ran out from the tractor in front of the mower, the clipper itself, with chains hanging down. So, if they run up on a pheasant's nest...the pheasant would fly off and they would stop immediately. We'd go gather the eggs and put 'em [sic] in the incubator and we would raise pheasants [until] they got big enough to fight for themselves in the wilderness.<sup>307</sup>*

TABLE 2.7  
FARM #1 LANDSCAPE CHRONOLOGY,  
1951–1965

1951	Pond added (ca. 1951)
1953	Eisenhower House construction begins (December 1953)
1954	Rear terrace retaining wall added (Fall 1954)
1955	Quonset Hut added (June 1955)
	Rear terrace walks added (Summer 1955)
	Large greenhouse added (October 1955)
	Putting green added (October 1955)
	Barn/Garage renovations
	Guard Houses added
1956	Guest House added
	Small greenhouses added (April 1956)
	Adenauer rose garden added (Spring 1956)
	Skeet range added (Spring 1956)
	Barbecue/Teahouse added (Summer 1956)
	Playhouse added (Summer 1956)
1957	Horse Shelter added
1957	Barbecue/Teahouse landscaping (Summer 1957)
1960	Storage Building added
1962	Equipment Shed added (ca. 1962)
1964	Pond removed (ca. 1964)
1965	South rose garden added (mid-1960s)



After the pheasants' release they were destined to fend for themselves. This may have been because pheasants were considered hardier birds than the quail and were better suited for the local environmental conditions. Most of the bird releases on the farm occurred in the late 1950s. It is not known when the farm crew stopped feeding and watering the quail. There is no record of any additional quail or pheasant release past the early 1960s.

Table 2.7 documents the changes to the ornamental landscape of Farm #1 during the Eisenhowers' ownership from 1951 to the late 1960s. The Period Plan for Farm #1 following this chapter graphically illustrates the landscape in 1969 and clearly shows the transformation from a typical Pennsylvania farmstead in 1950 to a model farm that was both a presidential retreat and an innovative agricultural operation. Major additions included a new and larger house on the site of the old farm house, a small guest house and several storage buildings and greenhouses, an improved and expanded entrance drive, and a variety of walkways, patios, and other outdoor spaces landscaped and screened with ornamental plantings, many of which were donated by admirers. Situated among these areas were features uniquely tied to the life of its famous occupants in the form of guard houses, security lights and cameras, and a helipad.

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## ENDNOTES TO CHAPTER 2

<sup>1</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower, *Letters to Mamie*, (New York: Double day and Company, Inc.), p. 157.

<sup>2</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower, *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends* (New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1967, Reprint, New York: Eastern Acorn Press, 1989), p. 358; John Eisenhower, *Interview by Carol Hegeman*, Tape Recording, Eisenhower Farm, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, January 26, 1984, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 1; *Historic Resource Study*, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*, p. 358.

<sup>4</sup> John Eisenhower interview, 1984, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*, p. 358; *Historic Resource Study*, p. 44-55.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>7</sup> M. Frances Jacobs interview, p. 12.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1-4.

<sup>9</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 4.

<sup>10</sup> *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*, p. 358; *Historic Resource Study*, p. 4; Mrs. Eisenhower later found out she was allergic to green ash trees. Mamie Doud Eisenhower, Interview by Edwin C. Bearss, Tape Recording, Eisenhower Farm, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1973, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 24.

<sup>11</sup> M. Frances Jacobs interview, p. 1-4, 12; *Historic Resource Study*, p. 4.

<sup>12</sup> Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p.8.

<sup>13</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 7-8; Arthur S. Nevins, *Gettysburg's Five-Star Farmer* (New York, NY: Carlton Press, Inc., 1977), p. 86.

<sup>14</sup> Rafael Redding interview, p. 14.

<sup>15</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 6-7.

<sup>16</sup> Arthur S. Nevins, Interview by Edwin C. Bearss, Tape Recording, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, May 21, 1973, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 1-4.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>18</sup> Arthur S. Nevins interview, p. 6-7; Rafael Redding interview, p. 5; *Historic Resource Study*, p. 58-59.

<sup>19</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 68.

<sup>20</sup> In later years, Nevins was hospitalized for tuberculosis. Both Feaster and Newman thought this work with the eggs in the damp cellar may have contributed to Nevins' illness. (*Historic Resource Study*, p. 60.)

<sup>21</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, November 13, 1951, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 - 1967*, Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>22</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, July 13, 1951, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 - 1967*.

<sup>23</sup> Arthur S. Nevins interview, p. 6-7.

<sup>24</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, July 13, 1951, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 - 1967*.

<sup>24</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, September 17, 1951, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 - 1967*.

<sup>25</sup> Arthur S. Nevins interview, p. 11.

<sup>26</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 67; *Five Star Farmer*, p. 108.

<sup>27</sup> Arthur S. Nevins interview, p. 11; *Historic Resource Study*, p. 65-66; *Five Star Farmer*, p. 108.

<sup>28</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 62.



- <sup>29</sup> Arthur S. Nevins interview, p. 9.
- <sup>30</sup> *Ibid*, p. 10.
- <sup>31</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 65.
- <sup>32</sup> *The Almanac of American History*, p.530-532.
- <sup>33</sup> Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p. 9.
- <sup>34</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 69-70; Carol Hegeman, "Assessment of Action..."
- <sup>35</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 70
- <sup>36</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 70-71; *Five-Star Farmer*, p. 110.
- <sup>37</sup> *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*, p. 359.
- <sup>38</sup> Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p. 9; Dwight D. Eisenhower to John S. Fine, Governor of Pennsylvania, August 12, 1954, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series; "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library; "Gift Books," p. 19; James H. Berkey to Dwight D. Eisenhower, June 17, 1955, and Dwight D. Eisenhower to James H. Berkey, June 18, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Construction," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.
- <sup>39</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 72-73.
- <sup>40</sup> *Ibid*, p. 71, 78.
- <sup>41</sup> *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*, p. 359-60.
- <sup>42</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 76.
- <sup>43</sup> *Ibid*, p. 71, 76, 78.
- <sup>44</sup> *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*, p. 360.
- <sup>45</sup> Arthur S. Nevins interview, p. 11.
- <sup>46</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 79.
- <sup>47</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, September 17, 1951, Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967.
- <sup>48</sup> John Eisenhower interview, 1984, p. 2.
- <sup>49</sup> The Crosley Runabout was a small four-wheel drive cart with a fringed top. It had open sides, two bench seats, and a modified running board across the back for standing passengers. The names "Ike" and "Mamie" were stenciled on the front fender. The car was a gift from Marvin Leonard of Ft. Worth, Texas in June 1955. It was originally presented to George Allen to give to Eisenhower, but instead Allen gave it to Mrs. Eisenhower. The Eisenhowers used the car to get around the farm, especially when escorting guests between Farm #1 and Farm #2. The Crosley was usually housed in the barn garage. "Gift Books," n. d., Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 22.
- <sup>50</sup> John Eisenhower interview, 1984, p. 18.
- <sup>51</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 93-94, Arthur S. Nevins interview, p. 10.
- <sup>52</sup> *Ibid*, 1984, p. 35, 37-38.
- <sup>53</sup> Delores Moaney, Interview by Todd Bolton, Tape Recording, Washington, DC, November 10, 1980, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 1.
- <sup>54</sup> John Eisenhower interview, 1984, p. 37-38.
- <sup>55</sup> The inscription read, "To Dwight David Eisenhower, 34<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. I want him to see a happy people. I want him to see a free people, doing exactly as they choose within the limits that they must not transgress the rights of others." This was a quote from Eisenhower made in reference to Khrushchev's state visit. *Historic Resource Study*, p. 102-103.
- <sup>56</sup> "National Historic Landmark Nomination," p. 46.
- <sup>57</sup> Mary Jean Eisenhower, Interview by Carol Hegeman, Tape Recording, Eisenhower Farm, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, June 25, 1987, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 8-9.
- <sup>58</sup> Delores Moaney interview, p. 2.
- <sup>59</sup> "Eisenhower Farm Landscaping, Gettysburg, Pa., 25 August 1955," Gettysburg National Military Park/Eisenhower National Historic Site Archives; 1967 Historical Plans, *Historic Resource Study*; "Existing Grounds Development: Eisenhower National Historic Site," NPS Philadelphia Planning & Service Center, July 1969, " Gettysburg National Military Park/Eisenhower National Historic Site Archives.
- <sup>60</sup> The 1955 landscape plan may have been Peaslee's original plan, or it may have been influenced by Peaslee since several of the plantings are arranged in a slightly formal style. No designer is indicated on the plan and it cannot be determined whether or not it was actually drawn by Peaslee. It is unlikely that this plan was drawn by Walter West, as he indicated he never completed a formal set of plans for the landscape while he worked for the Eisenhowers.
- <sup>61</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Colonel Schulz, Memorandum, September 27, 1954, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.
- <sup>62</sup> Chief Walter A West, Interview by Carol Hegeman, Tape Recording, September 26-28, 1983, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 2.
- <sup>63</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>64</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>65</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>66</sup> West did not recall the landscape architect's name when interviewed in 1983. Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 14-15.
- <sup>67</sup> *Ibid*, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 3-5.



<sup>68</sup> Eisenhower had his first heart attack in September 1955 while still in office. He was in the hospital in Denver until November, when he flew to Washington and drove to the farm in Gettysburg. He stayed on the farm for a six-week recuperation period, running the affairs of state from the farm. After spending the Thanksgiving holidays at the farm with the family, Eisenhower was much improved. He and Mrs. Eisenhower returned to the White House in mid-December and spent Christmas in Washington. On December 28, 1955 they went to Key West, Florida, where Eisenhower completed his recuperation. Barbara Eisenhower, Interview by Lawrence Eckert and Carol Hegeman, Tape Recording, Devon, Pennsylvania, September 12, 1983, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 41; *Historic Resource Study*, p. 90-91.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1, sect. 3, p. 21; vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 2.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 24-25.

<sup>71</sup> Donald P. McPherson, Jr., to Dwight D. Eisenhower, February 18, 1953, and Dwight D. Eisenhower to Donald P. McPherson, Jr., March 1, 1953, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Construction," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>72</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2., sect. 1, p. 24-25, and vol. 2, sect. 4, p. 13; James McCown and Robert Hallman, Interview by Barry Bohnet, Kathleen Georg, and Carol Hegeman, Tape Recording, Eisenhower Farm, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, August 30, 1983, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 33.

<sup>73</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 4, p. 32.

<sup>74</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Colonel Schulz, Memorandum, September 27, 1954, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>75</sup> Mr. Lauver's first name is not known. *Historic Resource Study*, p. 127-128.

<sup>76</sup> Arthur S. Nevins to Dwight D. Eisenhower, March 27, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Grasses," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>77</sup> These items were given to the Eisenhowers by the donor through Mr. Patrick McClary of Stoney Lonesome Antiques in Huntley, Illinois. "Gift Books," p. 8.

<sup>78</sup> A *hame* is a curved piece of wood which lays upon the collar in the harness of an animal to which the traces are attached. A *whiffletree* is a crossbar, pivoted at the middle, to which the traces of a harness are fastened for pulling a cart, carriage, or plow. It is often referred to as a *singletree*.

<sup>79</sup> Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior to Dwight D. Eisenhower, December 24, 1964, Vertical File: "History of the Site," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>80</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, January 4, 1965, Vertical File: "History of the Site."

<sup>81</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director National Park Service, June 2, 1966, Vertical File: "History of the Site."

<sup>82</sup> Walter West interview, vol. 2, sect. 4, p. 20.

<sup>83</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, October 26, 1954, Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967.

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>86</sup> It is unclear if any other gates were installed in either the eastern or western fence along the road.

<sup>87</sup> This spacing placed the fences about ten feet behind the treeline once the allee of trees was installed. This was a greater distance than the spacing of two feet between the fence and trees which Nevins had recommended.

<sup>88</sup> Examination of a historic photograph indicates this tree may have been a red maple, although there is no other documentation to verify this.

<sup>89</sup> Some of these plaques were eventually stolen by "inquisitive tourists." During the early years on the farm there was not a guard stationed at the entry when the Eisenhowers were away. In 1969, the remaining plaques were inventoried while still in place at the base of the trees. The following states were represented: East side of the drive – Minnesota, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Rhode Island, Mississippi, Vermont, Michigan, Tennessee, Colorado, New Jersey, Nebraska, Indiana, Virginia, Kentucky, Arizona, Missouri, Louisiana, Iowa; West side of the drive – Alabama/Texas (two at one tree), Maine, Pennsylvania, Oregon, California, South Dakota, Utah, New Mexico, Washington, Wyoming, Kansas, Oklahoma, New York, Arkansas, Maryland, North Dakota, Ohio, Florida. By 1969 all of the remaining plaques were removed to storage. No record was kept of which plaque went with which tree when they were removed. *Historic Resource Study*, p. 135, 164; Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect 1, p. 24-25, and vol. 1, sect. 3, p. 18-21.

<sup>90</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 3, p. 18.

<sup>91</sup> The flowering crabapples are often referred to as "flowering quince" in the historic documentation and correspondence. Cabinet members that contributed to the gift included: Richard Nixon, Vice President of the United States; John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State; George M. Humphrey, Secretary of the Treasury; Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense; Herbert Brownell, Jr., Attorney General; Arthur E. Summerfield, Postmaster General; Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce; Douglas McKay, Secretary of the Interior; Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture; James P. Mitchell, Secretary of Labor; Marion B. Folsom, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; Rowland R. Hughes, Director of the Bureau of the Budget; Arthur S. Flemming, Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization; Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., United States Representative to the United Nations; Harold E. Stassen, Special Assistant to the President; Philip Young, Chairman Civil Service Commission. Ann C. Whitman to Chief Walter West, October 17, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>92</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to all cabinet members, Draft Letter, n. d., Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.



<sup>93</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Colonel Schulz, Memorandum, September 27, 1954, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>94</sup> Eisenhower had a second heart attack in November 1965 while vacationing in Augusta, Georgia. Barbara Eisenhower interview, 9/12/83, p. 51.

<sup>95</sup> Some of these reference marks were still evident on the pavement in the early 1970s during Bearss' research but none are currently extant. *Historic Resource Study*, p. 136; Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 3, p. 18-23.

<sup>96</sup> Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p. 12.

<sup>97</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 3, p. 18-2, and vol. 2, sect. 4, p. 28.

<sup>98</sup> Peaslee's original layout has not been discovered, but given the correspondence regarding his influence on the entry structures, it is reasonable to assume he also influenced the planting plan for this area. Dwight D. Eisenhower to Colonel Schulz, Memorandum, September 27, 1954, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>99</sup> Timchenko also designed the landscape plan for the Eisenhowers' barbecue/teahouse, as described in later sections.

<sup>100</sup> Timchenko's plan identifies the Washington hawthorns as *Crataegus cordata*, however *Crataegus phaenopyrum* is the more commonly used name for the same tree.

<sup>101</sup> Timchenko had called for dwarf English yew (*Taxus baccata Repandens*) in this location, but Hicks yew was extant in 1969. It is unknown if the originally specified plants were not used, or had died and were replaced with the new variety. Nevertheless, the design intent of an evergreen shrub along the fence was still evident, even though the Hicks yews would grow larger than the specified dwarf yews.

<sup>102</sup> The red maple identified on the 1969 plan was only 4" in caliper. It was too young to have been installed during the 1957 period of Timchenko's plan.

<sup>103</sup> John Prins, Chairman Pierce County Republicans, to Dwight D. Eisenhower, November 3, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series: "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>104</sup> Ann C. Whitman to Arthur S. Nevins, November 1, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>105</sup> Sumpter T. Priddy, Jr. to Dwight D. Eisenhower, March 29, 1956; Arthur S. Nevins to Ann C. Whitman, April 25, 1956; Dwight D. Eisenhower to Sumpter T. Priddy, May 3, 1956, all in Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>106</sup> *Cultural Landscapes Inventory, Eisenhower National Historic Site*, p. 39.

<sup>107</sup> For specific tree and shrub gifts mentioned in the text, extant evidence or historical documentation exists recording their origin and/or where they were installed in the landscape. Known gifts of trees, shrubs, flowers, and bulbs are listed in *Appendix B* of this report. There are also undoubtedly plant gifts used on the farm for which no written record has been found although there is extant evidence in the landscape. Most of the tulip bulbs planted beneath the windbreak trees are no longer present, however many of the daffodils have naturalized and reappear in this area each spring.

<sup>108</sup> Arthur S. Nevins to Dwight D. Eisenhower, March 16, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site.

<sup>109</sup> Ann C. Whitman, Memorandum For Record, February 28, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series: "Trees and Bushes"; Louis L. Goldstein to Dwight D. Eisenhower, August 29, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes"; Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, March 1, 1955, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967*; Arthur S. Nevins to Ann C. Whitman, April 18, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Greenhouses," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>110</sup> There is some discrepancy in the record as to the exact date of the trees' installation. Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 3, p. 17-21; L. E. Berkey, Charles H. Tompkins Co., to Ann C. Whitman, February 7, 1955 Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>111</sup> Bill Woodward started work for John and Barbara Eisenhower in 1959. When they moved from the nearby Pitzer house, Barbara inquired of Mrs. Eisenhower if they had a position for Woodward at the Eisenhower Farms. They did not have an opening at the time, so Woodward took a job with the Pennsylvania Highway Department. Later, when a job became available, Eisenhower contacted Woodward and offered him a position, which he readily accepted. His duties at the farm included general maintenance of the house and grounds, limited security functions, and an occasional chauffeur duty. *Historic Resource Study*, p. 132-133.

<sup>112</sup> Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p. 4.

<sup>113</sup> These trees were provided by William Flemer, Jr., of Princeton Nurseries, in Princeton, NJ, along with several white and pink flowering dogwoods installed in the same area. They were included in a group of trees and shrubs planted at the farm under the direction of Harry L. Erdman, Director of Horticulture at Hershey Estates, who had offered to provide landscaping services for the Eisenhowers. L. E. Berkey, Charles H. Tompkins Co., to Ann C. Whitman, February 7, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>114</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 3, p. 18-21.

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>116</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 132.

<sup>117</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 4, p. 15-16; James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 42.



<sup>118</sup> The sundial was designed especially for the Eisenhowers by Mr. Barny of New York City. Barny, regarded as one of the most outstanding clockmakers in the United States at the time, devoted his spare time to this project for two months. The inscription read: “*Time is, Too slow for those who wait, Too swift for those who fear, Too long for those who grieve, Too short for those who rejoice, But, for those who love, Time is Eternity!*” It was presented by the association’s president, Amos G. Avery. “Gift Books,” p. 12-14.

<sup>119</sup> James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 1-2, 5, 49.

<sup>121</sup> *Ibid*, p. 1-2, 5, 27, 49.

<sup>122</sup> Another hitching post, mentioned by both West and McCown, may have come from Mrs. Doud’s house in Denver in 1960. This post was molded in the shape of a tree trunk and is located in the same location that the horse head hitching post was located. “Gift Books,” p. 11; Walter West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 46; James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 45-46.

<sup>123</sup> The lights do not appear in any historic photographs, but they are represented on the 1967 plan and were extant in the landscape in 1999.

<sup>124</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Creech Brothers, March 17, 1955, and Arthur S. Nevins to Dwight D. Eisenhower, March 27, 1955, and A. Kiefer Mayer to Ann C. Whitman, August 27, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Grasses,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>125</sup> Art Kennell, Interview by Mary L. Dickens and John Stiner, Tape Recording, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 15, 1983, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 44.

<sup>126</sup> James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 62-63.

<sup>127</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 2, p. 12.

<sup>128</sup> *Ibid*, vol. 2, sect. 4, p. 28-29.

<sup>129</sup> *Ibid*, vol. 2, sect. 3, p. 36 and vol. 2, sect. 4, p. 27.

<sup>130</sup> West specifically thought the maple was a transplant from the farm, but he also recalled that the pine planted near the Dutch oven was a Scotch pine from Syracuse, NY, which had a root ball eight feet in diameter. It is unlikely that this was an accurate recollection concerning the pine. The 1955 plan identifies this particular tree as a white pine donated by Rockefeller. The same identification is provided on the 1969 plan, and in the 1999 existing conditions survey, a mature multi-stemmed white pine was located in this spot, probably the original tree. It is unknown if the original white pine was a newly purchased tree or relocated from another point on the property. Walter West interview, vol. 2, sect. 2, p. 10, 13-15; Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p. 16.

<sup>131</sup> The second elm eventually died and was replaced with a Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*) by the National Park Service. See the later section on NPS ownership. Walter West interview, vol. 2, sect. 2, p. 13-15.

<sup>132</sup> Some of the pines were planted south of the windbreak. It is unknown where the remaining pines were installed. F. D. Moore & Sons, Nurserymen to Robert McLean, April 20, 1955, Whitman Files,

Gettysburg Farm Series, “Trees and Bushes,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>133</sup> These boxwoods are identified as “English boxwood” on the 1955 plan, but “common boxwood” is the preferred name for *Buxus sempervirens* and will be used throughout this document when referring to this species.

<sup>134</sup> Anthony L. Roman to Dwight D. Eisenhower, October 25, 1954; and L. E. Berkey, Charles H. Tompkins Co., general contractors, to Ann C. Whitman, November 30, 1954, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series: “Trees and Bushes”; Wendell B. Barnes to Dwight D. Eisenhower, Memorandum, October 25, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Grasses,” Eisenhower National Historic Site.

<sup>135</sup> The yew under the bay window noted on the 1969 plan does not appear on the 1967 plan. This is obviously an oversight, since there is photographic evidence of the plant’s presence in 1966. Walter West interview, vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 5.

<sup>136</sup> The cherries are only identified as *Prunus* on the plan, but it is likely may have been oriental cherries (*Prunus serrulata*) since several of these trees were donated to the Eisenhowers over the years.

<sup>137</sup> Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p. 11.

<sup>138</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>139</sup> *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*, p. 360.

<sup>140</sup> James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 62-63.

<sup>141</sup> John Eisenhower, Interview by Edwin C. Bearss, Tape Recording, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, June 5, 1973, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 10.

<sup>142</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 13; James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 59.

<sup>143</sup> West recalled they had a permit to burn papers in the incinerator. Household “wet garbage” was composted, and items that were not burnable like cans and jars were stored at Farm #2 and then taken to the city dump by the farm hands. All the grass clippings and soft yard waste was tilled into the garden or buried. Limbs, pieces of wood, and other large yard debris were used for quail brush piles around the farm. Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 2, p. 3-4.

<sup>144</sup> Charles and Ella Tressler, Interview by Carol Hegeman and Barry Bohnet, Tape Recording, Eisenhower Farm, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, August 18, 1983, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 1-10, 29.

<sup>145</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 17 & 34 and vol. 2, sect. 3, p. 13-14.

<sup>146</sup> The original top of the windmill was replaced by the National Park Service sometime before 1983. The original manufacturer was located and an exact replacement top was acquired. The gear box was not replaced at this time since the Eisenhowers did not operate the windmill consistently while on the farm. West was not sure whether or not the original gearbox was working when he left in 1963. The



last time he remembered running the windmill was around 1956. Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 29-30.

<sup>147</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 3, p. 31-33.

<sup>148</sup> Mamie D. Eisenhower interview, p. 17; Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 20.

<sup>149</sup> West recalled several hard freezes over the years that killed many shrubs. The original hedge of boxwood may have been replaced after one of these freezes. Charles and Ella Tressler interview, p. 16; Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 3, p. 34.

<sup>150</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 20-21 and vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 11-12; (1) "Trees and Shrubs Presented to the First Family for the Gettysburg Farm," Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site, n.d.; Julie M. Langdon to Carol Hegeman, Memorandum, June 19, 1984, Miscellaneous File, Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>151</sup> Barbara Eisenhower interview, 9/12/83, p. 42; Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 21 and vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 33.

<sup>152</sup> The other two rose gardens are the south rose garden and the Adenauer rose garden. Both are discussed later in the text.

<sup>153</sup> The brick walk between the garden and wall was added sometime after the late 1960s. Arthur S. Nevins to Ann C. Whitman, January 26, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Grasses," Eisenhower National Historic Site.

<sup>154</sup> James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 63.

<sup>155</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 3, p. 25; Charles and Ella Tressler interview, p. 10.

<sup>156</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 3, p. 26.

<sup>157</sup> John Eisenhower interview, 1973, p. 6.

<sup>158</sup> Arthur S. Nevins interview, p. 21.

<sup>159</sup> Mary Jean Eisenhower interview, p. 36.

<sup>160</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Colonel Schulz, Memorandum, September 27, 1954, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>161</sup> On June 15, 1984, Everett Crowell of North Mountain, West Virginia, visited the farm. It is unclear if he worked on the construction of the barbecue or if he had some connection with the Continental Clay Company. However, he remembered the barbecue was constructed of special oversize bricks, C-70 and C-75, which had been made by Continental in North Mountain. He also confirmed the custom made curved bricks were given to Eisenhower by Chewning after the flower show. Julie M. Langdon to Carol Hegeman, Memorandum, June 19, 1984, Vertical File: "Miscellaneous," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>162</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, October 21, 1955, Miscellaneous file, Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>163</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 48-50; *Historic Resource Study*, p. 79; Charles and Ella Tressler interview, p. 1-6.

<sup>164</sup> West recalled the weathervane was a gift to the Eisenhowers from Bill Robinson. Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 48-50.

<sup>165</sup> The exact species used for the hedge around the terrace is unknown, although West recalled that boxwoods were used as the hedge. He also mentioned that some boxwoods were transplanted to this site from the north flower garden when it was removed. Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 48, 57; Ann C. Whitman to Dwight D. Eisenhower, Memorandum, n.d., Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Teahouse, Playhouse, Putting Green, Skeet Range," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>166</sup> Barbara Eisenhower, Interview by Lawrence Eckert and Carol Hegeman, Tape Recording, Eisenhower Farm, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, August 20, 1983, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 24.

<sup>167</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 57.

<sup>168</sup> Art Kennell interview, p. 1.

<sup>169</sup> *Ibid*, p. 3.

<sup>170</sup> Arthur S. Nevins interview, p. 23.

<sup>171</sup> Harry L. Moffitt, President, Professional Golfers' Association of America to Dwight D. Eisenhower, April 11, 1955, and Dwight D. Eisenhower to Harry L. Moffitt, April 16, 1955, both in Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series: "Teahouse, Playhouse, Putting Green, Skeet Range." A similar offer was made by noted golf course architect Robert Trent Jones, however Eisenhower preferred to accept the PGA's offer. (Robert Trent Jones to Dwight D. Eisenhower, April 4, 1955, and Dwight D. Eisenhower to Robert Trent Jones, April 14, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Teahouse, Playhouse, Putting Green, Skeet Range," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>172</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>173</sup> *Ibid*. Also attending were Colonel Thomas M. Belshe; Harry L. Moffitt, President Professional Golfers' Association of America; William Mellin, Superintendent at the Lancaster Country Club; and Riley Heckert, Superintendent at the Hershey Country Club.

<sup>174</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Colonel Thomas M. Belshe, February 28, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series: "Construction."

<sup>175</sup> William F. Greenawalt, Bucks County Agricultural Agent, to Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, President, The Pennsylvania State University, November 21, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Teahouse, Playhouse, Putting Green, Skeet Range," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>176</sup> Harry L. Moffitt, President, The Professional Golfers' Association of America to Colonel Thomas M. Belshe, February 29, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Teahouse, Playhouse, Putting Green, Skeet Range," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library; David W. Gordon to Daniel R. Kuehn, Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park / Eisenhower National Historic



- Site, March 19, 1990, Vertical File, "Eisenhower Golf", Eisenhower National Historic Site Library; William F. Gordon to Dwight D. Eisenhower, September 5, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Teahouse, Playhouse, Putting Green, Skeet Range," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, Art Kennell interview, p. 37.
- <sup>177</sup> Harry L. Moffit, President, The Professional Golfers' Association of America to Colonel Thomas M. Belshe, February 29, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Teahouse, Playhouse, Putting Green, Skeet Range," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.
- <sup>178</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 3, p. 5.
- <sup>179</sup> Barbara Eisenhower interview, 9/12/83, p. 54; Arthur S. Nevins interview, p. 23.
- <sup>180</sup> Kennell kept one of the original five-star flags. The flags currently used are copies of the original ones. Art Kennell interview, p. 36-37.
- <sup>181</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 4, p. 1.
- <sup>182</sup> Art Kennell interview, p. 36.
- <sup>183</sup> Barbara Eisenhower interview, 9/12/83, p. 53.
- <sup>184</sup> David Eisenhower, Interview by Edwin C. Bearss, Tape Recording, White House Library, Washington, DC, May 31, 1973, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 15.
- <sup>185</sup> James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 80-81.
- <sup>186</sup> Records indicate that in 1955 the White House Social Staff did give Mrs. Eisenhower a crabapple, but its location in the landscape was not recorded. It is not clear whether the tree in the east lawn was the same specimen.
- <sup>187</sup> "Gift Books," p. 1; James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 56-57.
- <sup>188</sup> *Ibid.*, Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p. 13; Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, Sect. 4, p. 18.
- <sup>189</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 57.
- <sup>190</sup> Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p. 27; James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 45-46.
- <sup>191</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 22-23 & p. 25-26; James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 45-46; "Gift Books," p. 23.
- <sup>192</sup> James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 65.
- <sup>193</sup> "Gift Books," p. 17-18.
- <sup>194</sup> "Gift Books," p. 19.
- <sup>195</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15-16,
- <sup>196</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Colonel Schulz, Memorandum, September 27, 1954, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.
- <sup>197</sup> Memorandum to the President, May 5, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series: "Construction."
- <sup>198</sup> Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p. 12.
- <sup>199</sup> Mary Jean Eisenhower interview, p. 2.
- <sup>200</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 3, p. 16.
- <sup>201</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12-14.
- <sup>202</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12-13.
- <sup>203</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 74.
- <sup>204</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, March 1, 1955, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967*; Arthur S. Nevins to Dwight D. Eisenhower, March 27, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Grasses," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.
- <sup>205</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 76.
- <sup>206</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 2, p. 13-15.
- <sup>207</sup> James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 38.
- <sup>208</sup> Ann C. Whitman to Miss Ebba M. Jansen, March 29, 1956; Arthur S. Nevins to Ann C. Whitman, May 5, 1956; Dwight D. Eisenhower to Miss Ebba M. Janson, May 9, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library; Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect 1, p. 18.
- <sup>209</sup> This tree is identified on the 1969 plan as *Betula pendula* 'Cutleaf.' It may have actually been *Betula pendula* 'Gracilis' since there is no 'Cutleaf' cultivar listed in horticultural references. 'Gracilis' is a small birch with finely cut leaves and pendulous branches. Michael A. Dirr, *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, Fourth Edition, Revised 1990 (Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing Company, Revised 1990), p. 139.
- <sup>210</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 9; L. E. Berkey, Charles H. Tompkins Co., to Ann C. Whitman, February 7, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series: "Trees and Bushes"; Arthur S. Nevins to Ann C. Whitman, January 26, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Grasses," Eisenhower National Site Library; "Eisenhower Farm Landscaping, Gettysburg, Pa., 25 August 1955."
- <sup>211</sup> Walter A. West, vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 11-12.
- <sup>212</sup> The redwood trees and several seedlings were donated by W. H. A. Smith of the Hollow Tree Redwood Company in Ukiah, California. The redwood, and later the cryptomeria, were planted before construction of the storage building in 1960 in a spot where the Adenauer Rose Garden was later installed. Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 19 and vol. 2, sect. 2, p. 23-28; W. H. A. Smith, Hollow Tree Redwood Company, to Arthur S. Nevins, June 14, 1955, and Arthur S. Nevins to W. H. A. Smith, June 18, 1955,



and Dwight D. Eisenhower to W. H. A. Smith, December 9, 1955, all in Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Trees and Bushes,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>213</sup> This wall supported the gravel drive adjacent to the barn. It was installed soon after the 1960 construction of the storage building (current Reception Center). Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 2, p. 23-28; Carol Hegeman, “Assessment of Action...”

<sup>214</sup> It is likely that this porch renovation occurred in late 1955 or early 1956. Photographs show the original porch until mid-1955. Additionally, Eisenhower’s friend W. Alton Jones did not purchase the Pitzer Schoolhouse until July 1955 and could have not given the school’s bell to Eisenhower before then. The earliest photograph showing a view of the new porch is in March 1958 (Eisenhower Library photo #1472)

<sup>215</sup> Historic Resource Study, p. 78; Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p. 17.

<sup>216</sup> Some of these bulbs were also put in the pine windbreak west of the house. Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 1, 7-9.

<sup>217</sup> According to correspondence these twelve azaleas may have been *Rhododendron x obtusum* ‘Hinodegiri’. Ann C. Whitman to L. E. Berkey, April 30, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Grasses,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>218</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 6.

<sup>219</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2, sect. 2, p. 23-28; Carol Hegeman, “Assessment of Action...”

<sup>220</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 2, p. 23-28.

<sup>221</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>222</sup> The former cherry is identified on the 1969 plan simply as “Weeping Cherry” but it is probable that the variety is *Prunus subhirtella* ‘Pendula’ since this was the most common of the weeping cherries used in ornamental landscapes at this time.

<sup>223</sup> Carol Hegeman, “Assessment of Action...”; West, Vol. 2, Sect 2, 23-28.

<sup>224</sup> According to John Eisenhower, after his father left the White House, the expense and time required to maintain the numerous plantings of roses led to the removal of the ones planted in front of the house. The exact date of the establishment of the Adenauer Rose Garden is not known. Even though Adenauer donated the roses in 1955, it is unlikely that the garden was installed before the construction of the storage building and its adjacent retaining wall in 1960. It is unknown if new ‘General Eisenhower’ roses were acquired when the Adenauer Rose Garden was planted or if only shrubs located elsewhere on the site were used. John Eisenhower interview, 1984, p. 17; Dwight D. Eisenhower to Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, December 13, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Grasses,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>225</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 3-4.

<sup>226</sup> There is some correspondence in early 1954 concerning a toolshed that George Allen wanted to construct on Eisenhower’s property. He asked Eisenhower for an easement to erect a toolshed “for the convenience of his [Allen’s] farming operations.” Allen said that when Eisenhower was “free of [his] present position and ready to enter the farming operation personally, [they] would make a satisfactory adjustment as to the cost to him [Eisenhower], or alternatively, the shed could be removed.” The shed was to include toilet facilities so Eisenhower indicated to Tompkins and Berkey that there need not be similar facilities in the barn. Eisenhower later learned that the shed Allen was planning was a lot larger than originally intended. Allen indicated that the structure was going to be a present from his friend Alvord (possibly from Alcoa Company) Eisenhower was worried about the appearance of receiving such a gift and told Allen that it should be stopped unless 1) the gift was delayed until Eisenhower was out of office, 2) the structure was located on the edge of Eisenhower’s farm but not actually on his property, or 3) Allen pay for the structure, possibly at a discounted price, and that Eisenhower would reimburse him for half when they became fully operating partners on the farm. It is likely these early plans led to Eisenhower’s later acceptance of the Quonset hut for use as a storage building. Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, January 1, 1954, and Dwight D. Eisenhower to George E. Allen, January 2, 1955, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967*.

<sup>227</sup> James H. Berkey to Dwight D. Eisenhower, June 17, 1955, and Dwight D. Eisenhower to James H. Berkey, June 18, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series: “Construction”; Eisenhower indicated to Nevins that he would accept a the Quonset hut if he was charged the company’s cost and it was not a gift. It is not known if this stipulation was followed by Berkey. Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, January 2, 1955, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967*.

<sup>228</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 4, p. 2-4.

<sup>229</sup> See the later sections on game birds and dogs. *Historic Resource Study*, p. 123; Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 29-31; James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 77.

<sup>230</sup> These dogs were named after George Allen and Arthur S. Nevins.

<sup>231</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 3, p. 32-33.

<sup>232</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 125.

<sup>233</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 2, p. 4-6 and p. 29-31.

<sup>234</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 81.

<sup>235</sup> Gasoline service at the farm was installed by the Reddings. These pumps may have been provided by W. Alton Jones, Eisenhower’s friend and partner in the farm operations. Arthur Nevins changed the supplier from Sinclair to Cities Service when W. Alton Jones noted the brand of gasoline used on the farm. Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, March 14, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Construction,” Eisenhower National Historic Site; James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 30.

<sup>236</sup> West recalled when they were installing a tree in the vicinity of the old well, they unearthed the original pipe connecting the well to the



house. Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 2, p. 23, 27.

<sup>237</sup> Paul L. Surovic, Lord & Burnham Greenhouse Designers & Manufacturers, to Mary Jane McCaffree, June 8, 1955, and George E. Allen to Colonel Robert L. Schulz, July 5, 1955, and Dwight D. Eisenhower to Howard Young, October 29, 1955, all in Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Greenhouses," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library; "Gift Books," p. 20.

<sup>238</sup> "Gift Books," p. 20; W. G. Haddrell to Robert E. Davidson, Acting Superintendent Eisenhower National Historic Site, December 17, 1984, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series: "Greenhouses"; Mamie D. Eisenhower to W. G. Haddrell, March 6, 1956, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967*.

<sup>239</sup> Memorandum to the President, n. d., and Memorandum to the President, February 28, 1956, and Memorandum to the President, April 2, 1956, all in Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Greenhouses," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>240</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 12-13.

<sup>241</sup> The three hundred brambles were mostly blackberry with some black raspberry and were a gift from Mrs. W. Alton Jones (Nettie Marie). Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, January 18, 1955, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967*; Nettie Marie Jones to Dwight D. Eisenhower, March 16, 1956, and Dwight D. Eisenhower to Mrs. W. Alton Jones, March 29, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Trees and Bushes," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>244</sup> James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 52.

<sup>245</sup> Delores Moaney interview, p. 4; David Eisenhower interview, p. 2-3.

<sup>246</sup> George, K. R. *The Eisenhower Vegetable Garden*. April 2, 1982.

<sup>247</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 2, p. 7-8, 11; Charles and Ella Tressler interview, p. 7.

<sup>248</sup> Moaney interview, p. 4.

<sup>249</sup> The cost for installation of this system was approximately \$769 and Eisenhower approved of the recommendation on September 2, 1954. Memorandum for President Eisenhower, September 2, 1954, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Irrigation, Cultivation, Soils," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>250</sup> West said this garden was not here when he left the farm in the early 1960s. Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 2, p. 8.

<sup>251</sup> Charles and Ella Tressler interview, p. 7-8.

<sup>252</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Floyd Akers, July 11, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series: "Teahouse, Playhouse, Putting Green, Skeet Range."

<sup>253</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Charlie Tressler, July 11, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Teahouse, Playhouse, Putting Green,

Skeet Range," Eisenhower National Site Library.

<sup>254</sup> Men from the Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association visited the site on September, 26, 1983, Howard Oesterling was one of four men who planted nut trees on the site. He recalled that around fifty trees were planted. However, West indicated that only twenty or so trees were accepted because Eisenhower did not want to disturb too many of the wooded areas and the quail he was setting loose on the farm. West remembered some of the trees were also planted near the pond. At the time of the visit by Oesterling, many of the trees remained, but brush was growing up around them. Karen Jackson Pittleman, Memorandum for Record Re: Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association 1983 Site Visit, Vertical File: "Miscellaneous"; Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 16.

<sup>255</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 2, p. 16-17.

<sup>256</sup> Ethel Wetzel, Interview by Edwin C. Bearss, Tape Recording, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, May 21, 1973, Transcript at Eisenhower National Historic Site Library, p. 6.

<sup>257</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6-7.

<sup>258</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 3, p. 12-14; Allan C. Miller, Michigan Federation of Young Republicans National Committeeman and Wanda Raines, Miss Young Republican of Michigan to Dwight D. Eisenhower, May 17, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Grasses," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library; Arthur S. Nevins to Ann C. Whitman, April 18, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, "Greenhouses," Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>259</sup> Chlordane was also used to treat Japanese beetle infestations in the rose gardens.

<sup>260</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 3, p. 12-14.

<sup>261</sup> The apples were identified as 'Golden Delicious' and 'Stayman Winesap.'

<sup>262</sup> Except for one letter that mentions a property transfer, there is no corroborating evidence that Jones owned the skeet range land. The original Alan Redding farm boundaries plotted on an aerial view show the skeet range on Eisenhower's property. Revised text by Carol Hegeman.

<sup>263</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 4, p. 11.

<sup>264</sup> Arthur S. Nevins interview, p. 23.

<sup>265</sup> James McCown and Robert Hallman interview, p. 44, 82.

<sup>266</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, January 6, 1964, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967*.

<sup>267</sup> Eisenhower agreed with the placement of the shed, but wanted to make sure it was constructed on property he still owned. At this time some of the adjacent farm lands belonging to W. Alton Jones had been turned over to Gettysburg National Military Park. *Historic Resource Study*, p. 126; Robert Hartley, Interview by Kathleen Georg and Hal Greenlee, Tape Recording, Eisenhower Farm, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1981, Transcript at Eisenhower National



Historic Site Library, n. p.; Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, March 23, 1964, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967*.

<sup>268</sup> Robert Hartley interview, 1981, n. p.

<sup>269</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, October 18, 1951, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967*.

<sup>270</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 61.

<sup>271</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>272</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 60.

<sup>273</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1, sect. 2, p. 2.

<sup>274</sup> N. David Keefer, Jr., was a local waterfowl breeder who provided Eisenhower with many of the game birds on the farm. He operated Mallard Haven in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. N. David Keefer, Jr. to Dwight D. Eisenhower, April 27, 1955, and August 13, 1955, Dwight D. Eisenhower to David Keefer, Jr., July 25, 1956 and May 30, 1956, all in Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Ducks, Geese, Quail,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library; Dwight D. Eisenhower to Arthur S. Nevins, March 29, 1955, *Arthur S. Nevins Collection: Letters on the Eisenhower Farm Operation, 1948 – 1967*.

<sup>275</sup> Arthur S. Nevins to Ann C. Whitman, September 30, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Ducks, Geese, Quail,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library; *Historic Resource Study*, p. 124.

<sup>276</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to N. David Keefer, Jr., May 30, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Ducks, Geese, Quail,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>277</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 60 and vol. 2, sect. 2, p. 7.

<sup>278</sup> N. David Keefer, Jr. to Dwight D. Eisenhower, May 26, 1956, and N. David Keefer, Jr. to Dwight D. Eisenhower, October 21, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Ducks, Geese, Quail,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>279</sup> These bulbs were part of a 5000-bulb donation given to the Eisenhowers by W. Atlee Burpee, Jr., president of the W. Atlee Burpee Co., in Philadelphia.

<sup>280</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 61.

<sup>281</sup> John Eisenhower interview, 1984, p. 38.

<sup>282</sup> Mamie Doud Eisenhower interview, p. 19.

<sup>283</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 2, p. 1.

<sup>284</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to Charles Tompkins, July 19, 1954, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Irrigation, Cultivation, Soils,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>285</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 2, sect. 2, p. 6.

<sup>286</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 36; John Eisenhower interview, 1973, p. 12-13 and 1984, p. 47.

<sup>287</sup> It is not known what happened to the colt and filly. There is no additional reference to them in documentation. John Eisenhower interview, 1973, p. 12-13 and 1984, p. 47; Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 31-32.

<sup>288</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 32-33.

<sup>289</sup> John Eisenhower interview, 1973, p. 12-13 and 1984, p. 47; Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 31-32.

<sup>290</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 34.

<sup>291</sup> Me-Too was purchased from Pete Aurand and it is unclear where Tony was acquired. John Eisenhower interview, 1973, p. 12-13 and 1984, p. 47; Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 36 and vol. 2, sect. 2, p. 20; Barbara Eisenhower interview, 9/12/83, p. 56.

<sup>292</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 37-43 and vol. 2, sect. 1, p. 26.

<sup>293</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 42-43.

<sup>294</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 39.

<sup>295</sup> Mary Jean Eisenhower interview, p. 39.

<sup>296</sup> There is some discrepancy as to whether Eisenhower sold the horses or gave them away. Ethel Wetzel interview, p. 10; John Eisenhower interview, 1973, p. 12-13 and 1984, p. 47.

<sup>297</sup> The burro was donated by Tex McCrary. No record has been found listing the identity of the other donors of animals. *Historic Resource Study*, p. 121-122; Arthur S. Nevins to Ann C. Whitman, April 18, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Greenhouses,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>298</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 125.

<sup>299</sup> Mary Jean Eisenhower interview, p. 44. Apparently there were a few more “Arnolds” after this pig died.

<sup>300</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 124.

<sup>301</sup> N. David Keefer, Jr. to Dwight D. Eisenhower, April 27, 1955, and August 13, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series: “Ducks, Geese, Quail”; Arthur S. Nevins to Ann C. Whitman, September 30, 1955, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Ducks, Geese, Quail,” Eisenhower National Site Library.

<sup>302</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 28.

<sup>303</sup> *Historic Resource Study*, p. 93.

<sup>304</sup> During an interview, West indicated where these feeders were located on a map of the farm. Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 28.

<sup>305</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 29-31.



<sup>306</sup> Dwight D. Eisenhower to David Keefer, Jr. May 30, 1956, and July 25, 1956, Whitman Files, Gettysburg Farm Series, “Ducks, Geese, Quail,” Eisenhower National Historic Site Library.

<sup>307</sup> Walter A. West interview, vol. 1, sect. 1, p. 23.



Symbol	Botanical Name	Common Name(s)	Symbol	Botanical Name	Common Name(s)
<b>Trees and Shrubs</b>					
Abe gr	Abelia x grandiflora	Glossy abelia	Mal sp W	Malus spp. wild crabapple	Wild crab (from rootstock)
Ace pl	Acer platanoides	Norway maple	Phi co	Philadelphus coronarius	Mock orange
Ace pl C	Acer p. 'Crimson King'	Crimson King maple	Pic ab	Picea abies	Norway spruce
Ace ru	Acer rubrum	Red maple	Pic pu	Picea pungens	Colorado blue spruce
Ace sa	Acer saccharum	Sugar maple	Pie ja	Pieris japonica	Japanese pieris
Ber th	Berberis thunbergii	Japanese barberry	Pin st	Pinus strobus	Eastern white pine
Bet pe	Betula pendula	European white birch	Pla oc	Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore
Bet sp	Betula spp.	White birch	Pru ce	Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpera'	Purple leaf plum
Bud sp	Buddleia spp.	Butterfly-bush	Pru pen	Prunus pensylvanica	Wild red/Pin cherry
Bux mi	Buxus microphylla var. koreana	Korean boxwood	Pru per	Prunus persica	Common peach
Bux se	Buxus sempervirens	Common boxwood	Pru pr N	Prunus persica 'Nectarina'	Nectarine
Car il	Carya illinoensis	Pecan	Pru se	Prunus serrulata	Oriental cherry
Car sp	Carya spp.	Hickory	Pru sp	Prunus spp.	Cherry
Cat sp	Catalpa spp.	Catalpa	Pru su	Prunus subhirtella 'Pendula'	Weeping Higan cherry
Cer ca	Cercis canadensis	Redbud	Pru tr	Prunus triloba	Flowering almond
Cha la	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Port Orford cedar	Pyra coc	Pyracantha coccinea	Pyracantha (Firethorn)
Cor fl	Cornus florida	Flowering dogwood	Pyru com	Pyrus communis	Common pear
Cra ph	Crataegus phaenopyrum	Washington hawthorn	Que pa	Quercus palustris	Pin oak
Cry ja	Cryptomeria japonica	Japanese cryptomeria	Que ve	Quercus velutina	Black oak
Fag gr	Fagus grandifolia	American beech	Rho ob	Rhod. x obtusum 'Hinodegiri'	Hinodegiri azalea
Fag sy	Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea'	Purple leaf beech	Rho sp	Rhododendron spp.	Azalea/Rhododendron
For ov	Forsythia ovata	Early forsythia	Rob ps	Robinia pseudoacacia	Black locust
Fra pe	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Green ash	Ros sp	Rosa spp.	Rose
Hib ro	Hibiscus rosa sinensis	Chinese hibiscus	Sal ba	Salix babylonia	Weeping willow
Hib sp	Hibiscus spp.	Hibiscus	Sal ni	Salix nigra	Black willow
Hib sy	Hibiscus syriacus	Rose-of-Sharon	Sas al	Sassafras albidium	Sassafras
Ile cr	Ilex crenata	Japanese holly	Seq se	Sequoia sempervirens	Redwood
Ile gl	Ilex glabra	Inkberry	Spi sr	Spiraea prunifolia	Bridalwreath spirea
Ile op	Ilex opaca	American holly	Syr ch	Syringa x chinensis	Chinese lilac
Jug sp	Juglans spp.	Walnut	Syr pe	Syringa x persica	Persian lilac
Lig sp	Ligustrum spp.	Privet	Syr vu	Syringa vulgaris	Common lilac
Liq st	Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweet gum	Tax bac	Taxus bacatta	English yew
Lir tu	Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip poplar	Tax ba R	Taxus bacatta 'Repandens'	Dwarf English yew
Lon sp	Lonicera spp.	Honeysuckle	Tax ca	Taxus canadensis	Canadian yew
Mag so	Magnolia x soulangiana	Saucer magnolia	Tax cu	Taxus cuspidata 'Capitata'	Japanese yew
Mag sp	Magnolia spp.	Magnolia	Tax me	Taxus x media 'Hicksii'	Hicks yew
Mag st	Magnolia stellata	Star magnolia	Tax sp	Taxus spp.	Yew
Mal sp A	Malus spp. Apple	Apple	Tsu ca	Tsuga canadensis	Canadian hemlock
Mal sp H	Malus spp. 'Hopa'	Hopa crabapple	Ulm am	Ulmus americana	American elm
Mal sp K	Malus spp. 'Katherine'	Katherine crabapple	Ulm pu	Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese elm
Mal sp L	Malus spp. 'Liset'	Liset crabapple	Zel se	Zelkova serrata	Japanese zelkova
<b>Groundcovers, Vines, and Herbaceous</b>					
Agr te	Agrostis tenuis 'Penncross'	Penncross bentgrass	Iri sp	Iris spp.	Iris
Aqu sp	Aquilegia spp.	Columbine	Nym sp	Nymphaea spp.	Water lily
Beg tu	Begonia tuberhybrida	Tuberous begonias	Pae sp	Paeonia spp.	Peony
Cal bi	Caladium bicolor	Caladium	Pel ho	Pelargonium x hortorum	Common geranium
Cam ra	Campsis radicans	Trumpet creeper	Sal sp	Salvia splendens	Scarlet sage
Cen ce	Centaurea ceneraria	Dusty Miller	Sin sp	Sinningia spp.	Common gloxinia
Car pe	Carum petroselinum	Parsley	Sed sp	Sedum spectabile	Showy sedum
Cle sp	Clematis spp.	Clematis	Tag sp	Tagetes spp.	Marigold
Cor va	Coronilla varia	Crown vetch	Tul sp	Tulipa spp.	Tulip
Cyc sp	Cyclamen spp.	Cyclamen	Typ la	Typha latifolia	Common cattail
Dia de	Dianthus deltoides	Maiden pink	Vin mi	Vinca minor	Vinca (Periwinkle)
Gla sp	Gladiolus spp.	Gladiola	Vio sp	Viola spp.	Violet
Hed he	Hedera helix	English ivy	Vio wi	Viola x wittrockiana	Common pansy
Hel tu	Helianthus tuberosus	Jerusalem artichoke	Vit la	Vitus labrusca 'Concord'	Concord grape
Imp wa	Impatiens wallerana	Impatiens	Vit sp	Vitus spp.	Grape
Iri ge	Iris x germanica	German iris	Wis si	Wisteria sinensis	Chinese wisteria

Notes: Plant sizes in inches indicate trunk diameter at breast height; plant sizes in feet indicate shrub diameter; (ms) multi-stemmed

Cultural Landscape  
Report for  
Eisenhower  
National Historic  
Site

Period Plan  
Farm #1: 1969 (1/2)

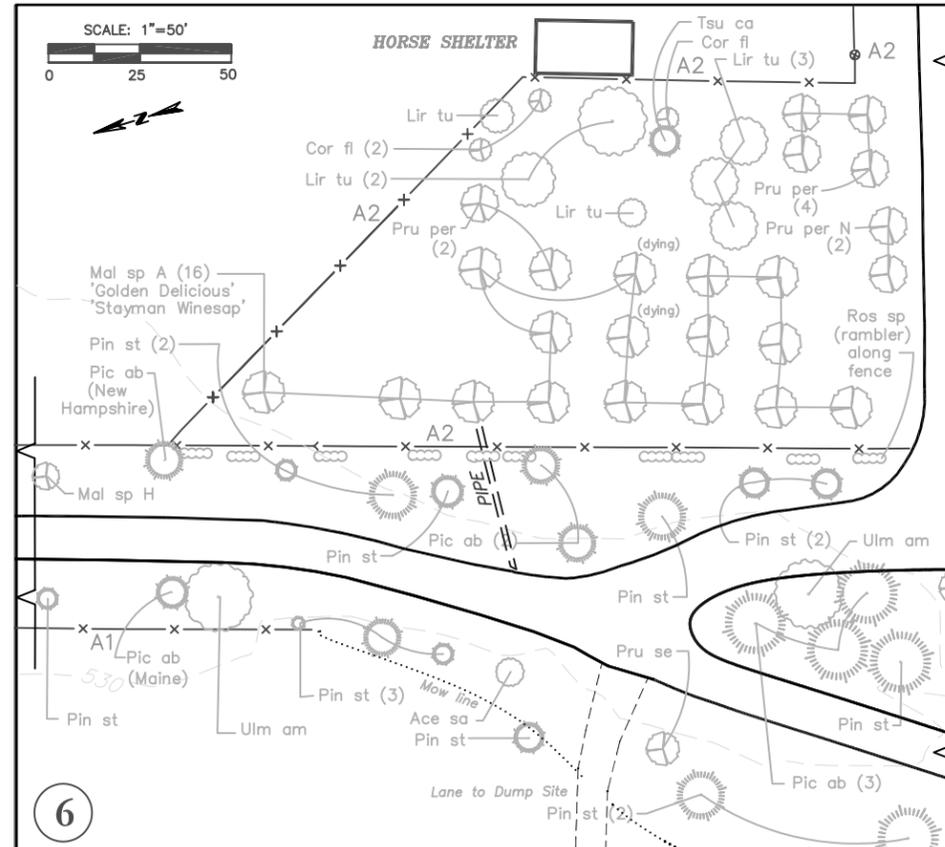
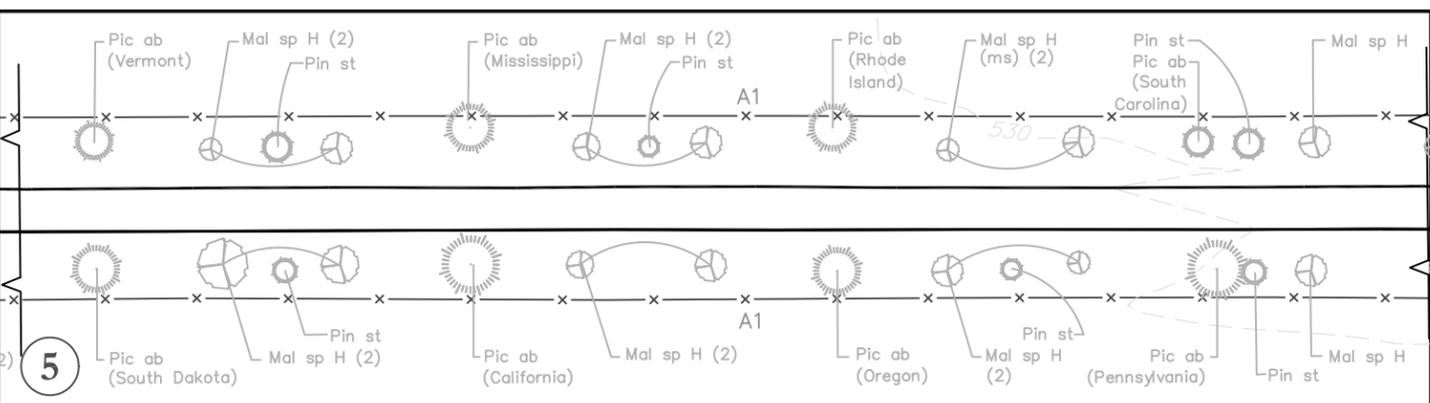
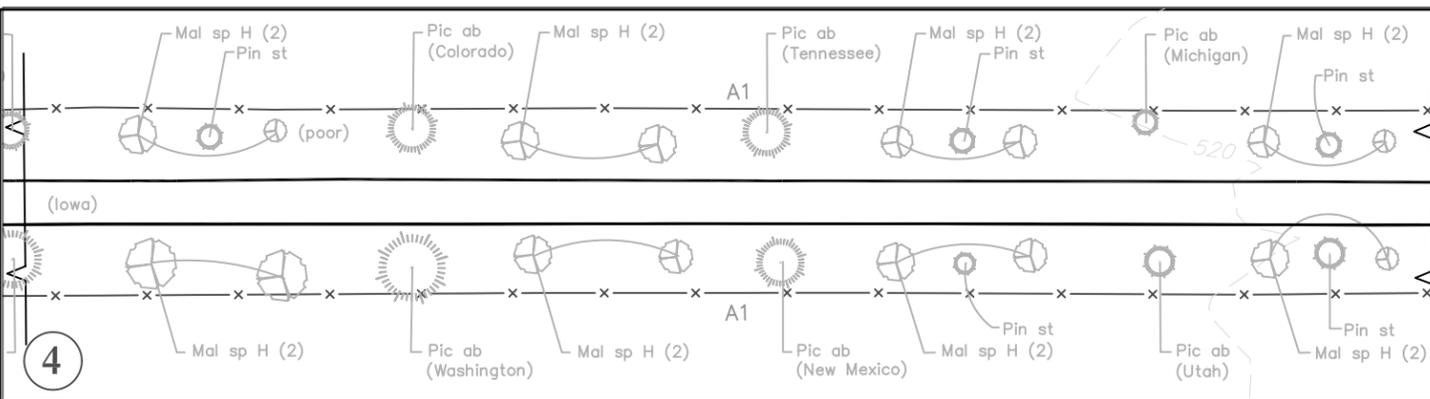
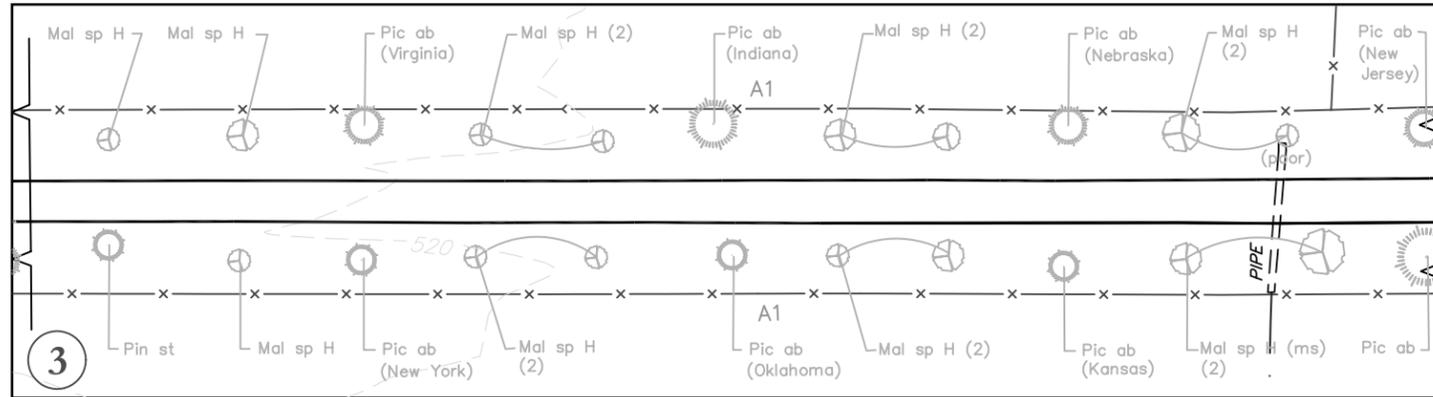
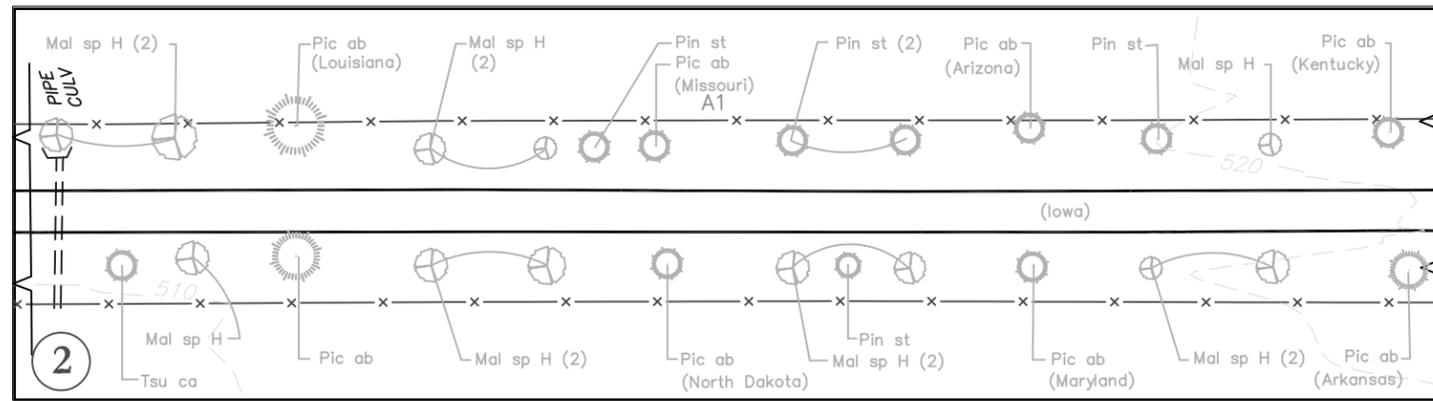
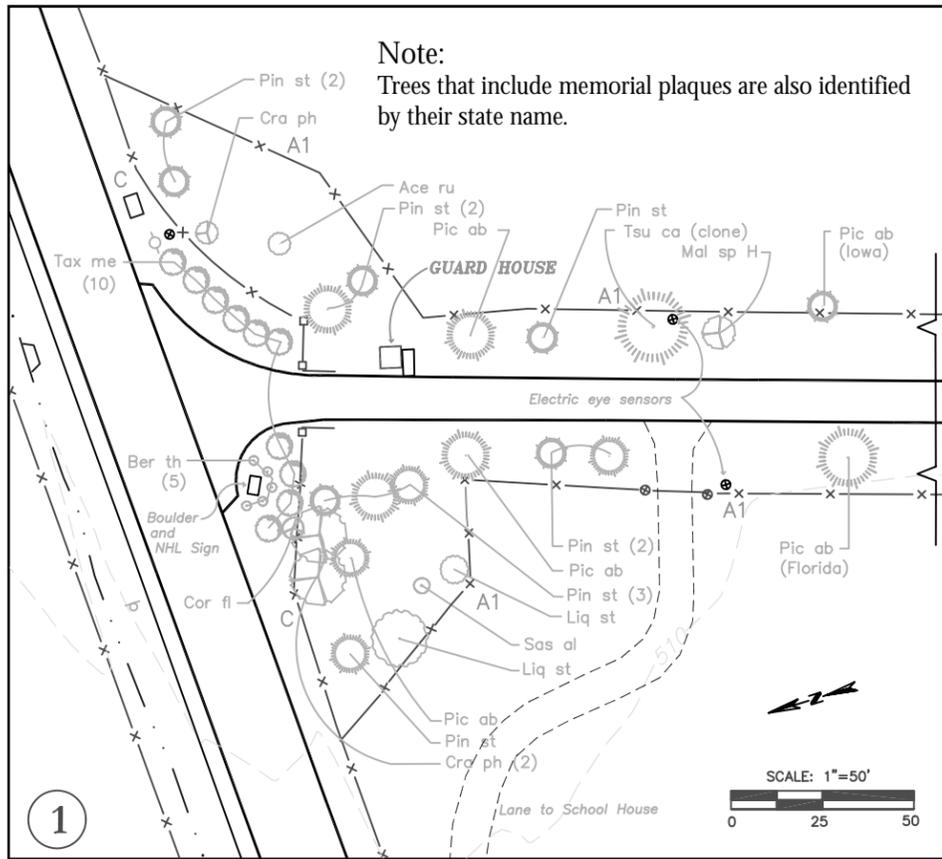
National Park Service  
Olmsted Center for  
Landscape Preservation

Sources:  
Historic photographs and  
plans (1955, 1967, 1969);  
CADD drawing (5/2000);  
Site visits (2002, 2005).

Notes:  
Location and scale of  
features are approximate.  
Drawn by J. Killion using  
Illustrator 10.

Legend:

- Park boundary
- 540 - 10' contours
- ▬ Paved road-walk
- ▬ Gravel road
- ▭ Structure
- Deciduous plant
- ⊗ Evergreen plant
- Groundcover
- x-x Fences
- A1 - post and wire
- A2 - post and wire w board
- B - 4-board
- C - cross-board
- D - picket





Cultural Landscape  
Report for  
Eisenhower  
National Historic  
Site

Period Plan  
Farm #1: 1969 (2/2)

National Park Service  
Olmsted Center for  
Landscape Preservation

Sources:  
Historic photographs and  
plans (1955, 1967, 1969);  
CADD drawing (5/2000);  
Site visits (2002, 2005).

Notes:  
Location and scale of  
features are approximate.  
Drawn by J. Killion using  
Illustrator 10.

- Legend:
- - - - - Park boundary
  - 540 - 10' contours
  - ▬ Paved road-walk
  - ▬ Gravel road
  - ▭ Structure
  - Deciduous plant
  - ⊙ Evergreen plant
  - Groundcover
  - x A1 x Fences
  - A1 - post and wire
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