# REVISITING COUNTRY ELEGANCE IN A FRENCH MANOR STYLE HOME

# THREE FIEIDS



Photo by David Gruol

The Women's Association for Morristown Medical Center is proud to present its 20th Mansion in May Designer Showhouse and Gardens at Three Fields located in the Borough of Mendham, New Jersey. The 9,000 square foot stone, brick and tile-roofed French manor style home was designed by New York architect Greville Rickard for Benjamin Duncan Mosser and his wife, the former Florence Willets Mosford. Three Fields was designed and built between 1928 and 1930 and is beautifully situated on almost 36 acres of pastoral, rolling fields and features many architectural elements, including tall, steeply pitched tile roofs punctuated by dormers, wood casement windows (originally shuttered) and French doors that opened to the formal gardens, ponds, and fields beyond. The facade, made up of several conjoined units - as if the house had been added to over the years - as well as

roofs with built-in bumps and sags, all served to further project the romantic look of an elegant, long-established country residence.

Benjamin Mosser was, for nearly thirty years, a partner in the prominent Wall Street banking and brokerage firm of Clark, Dodge & Co. In 1949, less than a year after her husband's death, Florence Mosser sold Three Fields to Andrew Fletcher and his wife, the former Elizabeth Dorothea Camp. Andrew Fletcher served as mayor and councilman of the Borough of Mendham and was on the board of, and a major benefactor to, the Mendham Library. In the mid-1960s, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher gave Three Fields to the borough, and the trust holding the proceeds from the borough's sale of the property in the 1980s, after the Fletchers' deaths, continues to benefit the community.



## THREE FIELDS

# THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR MORRISTOWN MEDICAL CENTER PROUDLY PRESENTS THE 20TH MANSION IN MAY

Location: Three Fields, Borough of Mendham, NJ

Proceeds to Benefit: The Institute of Bioskills Training and Innovation

Mansion Open to the General Public: Monday, May 1 - Wednesday, May 31.

Open daily from 10am - 4pm

**Ticket Prices: \$50** 

Private Tours: For details, visit www.mansioninmay.org

Parking: Free shuttle service provided from 82 W Main Street, Mendham NJ 07945

No parking available at Three Fields

**MIM Phone Number: 973-971-8800** 

Mansion Email: info@mansioninmay.org

Website: www.mansioninmay.org

www.wammc.org

Social Media: Facebook and Instagram @mansioninmay

#### **Please Note:**

- Children under 12 years of age are not permitted to visit the mansion, including infants
- The mansion is not handicapped accessible
- Mansion and garden tour takes approximately 90 minutes
- Café on site serving box lunch



### Three Fields

Three Fields was designed and built between 1928 and 1930 for Benjamin Duncan Mosser and his wife, the former Florence Willets Mosford, on a 34-acre tract they acquired earlier that year that had been part of the 400-acre Woodmere Farms estate of the late Edward Taylor Hunt Talmage. The whitewashed stone and brick residence and adjacent garage-carriage house were designed by the Yale-trained architect and artist, Greville Rickard.

Beautifully situated in the pastoral, rolling fields of the Borough of Mendham, the buildings were described in "Architecture" magazine as being "in the French style." The feeling of a large and rambling European country farmhouse was conveyed by such architectural elements as tall, steeply pitched tile roofs punctuated by dormers, wood casement windows (originally shuttered), and French doors that opened to the formal gardens, ponds, and fields beyond. The façade, made up of several conjoined units—as if the house had been added to over the years—as well as roofs with built-in bumps and sags, all served to further project the romantic look of an elegant, long-established country residence.

Benjamin Mosser was for nearly thirty years a partner in the prominent Wall Street banking and brokerage firm of Clark, Dodge & Co. He had previously worked as a bond salesman in the Philadelphia office of Brown Brothers & Co., later Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.

According to architect Greville Rickard's December 1930 application for membership in the American Institute of Architects, after leaving Yale, but before establishing his own practice, he worked as a draftsman for several prominent architectural firms in New York, including Carrère & Hastings, Cass Gilbert, Harrie T. Lindeberg, and York and Sawyer.

Although principally an architect of country residences, Rickard also worked on several commercial structures in New York, including the conversion of an old Upper East Side brownstone into an elegant brick and limestone, Georgian-style headquarters for the Dawson antiques and interior firm for which, in 1926, Rickard received the Gold Medal of the Fifth Avenue Association.

In Greenwich, Connecticut, Rickard's design commissions included the large French Normandy-style mansion built in 1939 by the New York real estate mogul, Dr. Charles Vincent Paterno. Sited on the highest point in the backcountry, Round Hill section of Greenwich, with views to the Long Island Sound and New York City, the estate was later owned by financier and arts patron Joseph H. Hirshhorn and, more recently, by fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger, who sold the house in 2021 for \$45 million.

In 1949, less than a year after her husband's death, Florence Mosser sold Three Fields to Andrew Fletcher and his wife, the former Elizabeth Dorothea Camp. The following year the Fletchers added a 16-acre parcel to their property, purchased from the von Meister family's adjacent Blue Chimneys estate on Horseshoe Bend Road.

Drew Fletcher, a 1916 Yale graduate with a degree in mechanical engineering, first worked for his family's shipbuilding business, W. & A. Fletcher Co., in Hoboken. The company, established by Drew's grandfather and great-uncle in 1852, came to be renowned as much for its technological advances as for the famous ships and yachts it helped build. The firm was considered the premier steamship and marine engine manufacturer in the country.

In 1929, Drew left the family company to join what later became the St. Joe Minerals Company. Rising through the ranks, he eventually became president and chairman of the board before retiring as chairman emeritus in 1967.

Dorothea and Drew Fletcher were both active in New Jersey and New York City civic and charitable affairs. In New York, Dorothea served as president of the Yorkville Community Association and on the board of St. Barnabas Hospital, and Drew was executive vice president and a director of the New York Eye Bank for Sight Restoration.

In New Jersey—where he was affectionately known as "Mr. Mendham"—Drew served as a Mendham Borough councilman from 1957 to 1964 and as mayor from 1961 to 1964. He was passionate about the town's library and served on its board of trustees for some sixteen years, and as president of the board for much of that time. As part of his generous legacy to the town, Fletcher donated the funds to build and maintain a new library wing that was later named in his honor.

Although Dorothea and Drew Fletcher maintained an apartment in New York, Three Fields was their primary residence, where they raised their three children and lovingly tended the estate's formal gardens. By deeds executed in 1965 and 1966, they conveyed title to their then-50-acre property to the borough, while retaining life rights. After their deaths, Drew in 1977 and Dorothea in 1980, the borough sold the estate at public auction, the proceeds going to fund the Andrew Fletcher Three Fields Memorial Trust to be used "for such municipal purposes as would best serve the long-term need of the people" of Mendham.

W. Barry Thomson



#### **PAST MANSIONS & CAUSES**

1974 - Upton Pyne, Bernardsville	New ICU and CCU
1976 - Giralda, Madison	Friends Fund of MMH
1980 - Schiff Estate, Mendham	New OB/GYN Units
1981 - Hollow Hill Farm, Convent Station	Special Care Nursery-Clinic
1986 - Evergreens, Morristown	Cardiac Rehab Extension
1988 - Warren Estate, Bernardsville	Telemetry Unit for Cardiac Surgery
1991 - Upton Pyne, Revisted, Bernardsville	ER Renovation
1994 - Bayley - Ellard, Madison	Carol G. Simon (Women's Cancer Center)
1997 - Vail Mansion, Morristown	Carol G. Simon (Women's Cancer Center)
1999 - Knox Hill, Morris Township	The Children's Medical Center
2001 - Ellerslea, Morris Township	Goryeb Children's Hospital
2003 - Cross Estate, Bernardsville	NICU
2006 - Ross Family Farm, Basking Ridge	Gagnon Heart Hospital
2008 - Froh Heim, Far Hills	Valerie Fund Children's Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital
2010 - Fawn Hill Farm, Harding Township	Emergency Department Expansion
2012 - Glynallyn, Morristown	Hospice & Palliative Care Center
2014 - Blairsden, Peapack-Gladstone	PICU & Autism Center at Goryeb Children's Hospital
2017 - Alnwick Hall- The Abbey, Morris Township	Center for Nursing Innovation & Research

**Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute** 

2020 - Tyvan Hill, New Vernon



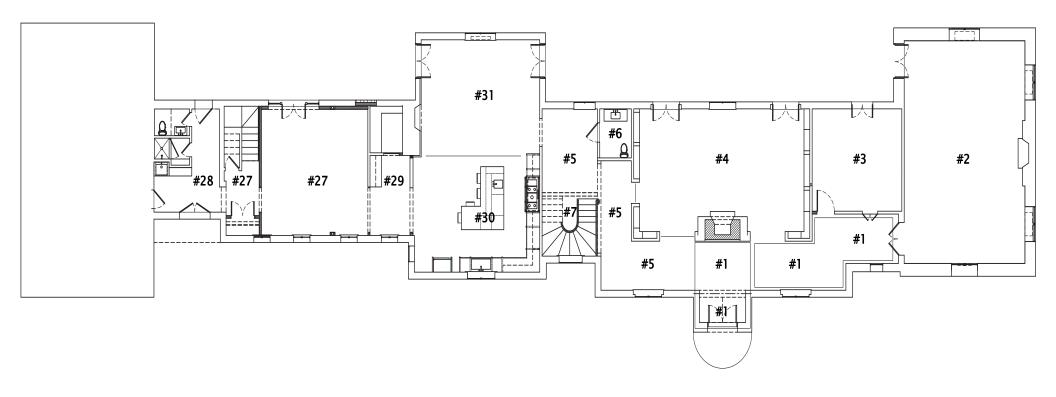
SPACE	ROOM TITLE	DESIGN FIRM	DESIGNER
1	Birds of Paradise	Megan Pisano Design	Megan Pisano
2	Family Entertainment Lounge	eInteractive Inc. and Christopher Guy	Dan Bright, Ryan Diehl & Nadia Santiago
3	Password, Please	Jaeger Kitchen and Bath	Debbie Kerr
4	Three Fields Drawing Room	Kristin Ashley Interiors	Kristin Ashley Badolato
5 & 10	Arete'	Broadfoot and Broadfoot	Scott Broadfoot
6	Powder Room with a View	Studio Piacere	Lauren Graback
7	A Walk Through The Woods	Studio Eighteen	Heather Verrusia Pallotta
8	Cotsworlds Guest Bath	Jennifer Muirhead Interiors	Jennifer Muirhead
9	Sous Les Fleurs	Callie Bruen Interiors	Callie Bruen
11	The Secret Garden Path	Marina V Design Studio, Studio 18 and Larkspur	Marina V Umali & Heather Verrusia Pallotta
12	Primary Bath	Monk's Kitchen and Bath Design Studio	Anina Peter
13	Gentleman's Retreat	California Closet	Donna Infantolino
14	Sa Brougique Prive'	Boutique Closets and Cabinetry, LLC	Wendy Scott
15	Paradis Des Voyageurs - Traveler's Haven	Swati Goorha Designs	Swati Goorha



SPACE	ROOM TITLE	DESIGN FIRM	DESIGNER
16	Guest Room with a View	Diane Durocher Interiors	Diane Durocher
17	La Chambre D'amis	Design Consultants	Gail Whiting
18	Monet's Studio and Water Lily Pond	IDAL Metropolitan Artisans	Jodi Heinz
19	A Walk in the Clouds	Bernard's Decorating	Arlene Reilly
20	Come Spill the Tea	Accents by Design	Sagri Frieber
21	The Future is Female	R Brown Interiors	Robin Brown
22	Come Lei	NC Interiors - Natalie Chianese	Natalie Chianese
23	Nature Study	Samuel Robert Signature Spaces	Sam Ciardi
24	Moor and Mountain	Samuel Robert Signature Spaces	Sam Ciardi
25	Last Glance(Before The Party)	Casa Double L Interior Design	Pam Lazor
26	La Retraite de Madame (A Lady's Retreat)	Interior Decisions Inc.	Karla Trincanello
27	Yellow Bird	CWI Design	Rachel Kapner
28	Mudroom	Wydian	Claudia Harvey
29	Butler's Pantry	Dove Design Studio	Jim Dove
30	Francois Au Fond - French at Heart	RSM Interiors	Robin Mitilenes
31	The Keeping Room	Susan Farcy Interior Design	Susan Farcy



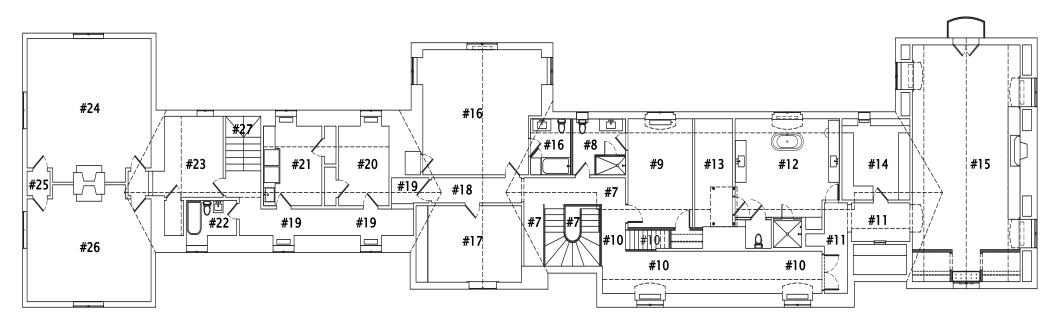
#### FIRST FLOOR PLAN



# THREE FIELDS



#### **SECOND FLOOR PLAN**



# THREE FIELDS



SPACE	LANDSCAPE SPACE TITLE	LANDSCAPE DESIGN FIRM	LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
L1	Areté	Broadfoot and Broadfoot, LLC	Scott A. Broadfoot, Sean Holzli
L2	The Enchanted Walls	The Personal Gardener	Debra Webb
L3	Three Fields After Dark	NatureScape Lighting + Audio	Michael Deo, Zac Karr
L4	Fox Trail Run	Kohut and Son Landscaping	John Kohut
L5	The Fairy Tale Garden	Bosenberg Landscape Architecture	Jim Mazzucco, LLA, RLA John Olivo LLA, ASLA, Nina Cron
L6	Grand Entrance	Foerster Landscape, Inc.	Tim Foerster
L6	Grand Entrance	Classic Home & Garden	Karen Waldron
L7	The Arrival Court	Mansion in May History	Barry Thomson
L8	Areté	Broadfoot and Broadfoot, LLC	Scott A. Broadfoot, Sean Holzli
L9	Gails Garden, A Tribute	Mansion in May Landscape	A Collaboration
L10	Sierra Sunset	Square Acre Studio	Tom Salaki PLA, ASLA, Will Fern
L10	Sierra Sunset	Garden Cottage	Sarah Conine, Melissa McNamara
L11	Open Hearth	Split Rock Design	Anthony Cortese, Sam Newman



SPACE	LANDSCAPE SPACE TITLE	LANDSCAPE DESIGN FIRM	LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
L12	Refurbishment of Classic Water Feature	WaterWorks	Lee Miller
L13	The Cabana	Susan Cohan Gardens	Susan Cohan CPLD, FAPLD, Alex Holt-Cohan, Ryan Zawojski
L14	Petite Parterre	Back to Nature	Anthony Sblendorio, Evan Ralph, Erika Mantz, Maggie O'Brien
L15	Contained Lillie	The Lillie House	Jillian McFadyen, Cory Robinson
L16	Arete	Broadfoot and Broadfoot, LLC	Scott A. Broadfoot, Sean Holzli
L17	A Native "Rose" Garden	Square Acre Studio	Tom Salaki PLA, ASLA, Will Fern
L17	A Native "Rose" Garden	Leaf + Line	Dan Chomuk
Sponsor	Cafe' Courtyard	Laura Clare Design	Laura Pugsley
Sponsor	Deer Solutions	Deer Solution	Jaime Goodrich
Sponsor	Arborist	R. Moore & Assoc. Tree Experts	Ryan Moore



### THREE FIELDS

#### LANDSCAPE DESIGN PLAN

