



Town of Marbletown Historic Preservation Commission

MARBLETOWN LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name _____

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number _____

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

not for publication

vicinity

city or town _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____ zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	buildings
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	sites
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	structures
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	objects
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation:

walls:

roof:

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title _____		
organization _____	date _____	
street & number _____	telephone _____	
city or town _____	state _____	zip code _____
e-mail _____		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:**

Photographs (please attach separately):



Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

History of “The Inn” Laura Cunningham residence, 74 Ridgely Drive, in Stone Ridge, NY was part of the former Leggett Estate and adjoins the original Leggett estate properties including Francis H. Leggett “Ridgely Manor” (now known as Vivekananda Ridgely Retreat) at 101 Leggett Road, Stone Ridge; the entire estate has strong qualifications for landmark designation, even National Register of Historic Places. I am applying for designation for only my own residence at 74 Ridgely Drive, which predates but became part of and still adjoins every border of the former Leggett estate, and occupies the center of what was once a several hundred acre “Ridgely Park”, sharing the original driveway, The Avenue, and has vistas on all sides of the original estate.

Famous Persons associated with the estate:

Francis H. Leggett, Swami Vivekananda, Lord David Margesson.

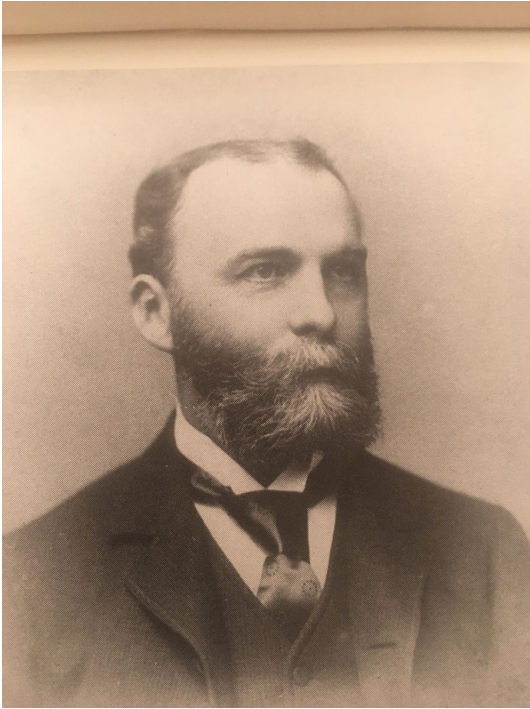
The Shawangunk Inn predates Ridgely Park, the original Francis H. Leggett estate. The Inn is listed in the 1810 census. The cellar are beams are hand-hewn and may even be much earlier, possibly dating from the late 1700’s.

The main Leggett estate was created in 1892 but Francis H. Leggett acquired the Inn and also purchased many other properties along Leggett Road, which he also built upon. He and his architect Charles Coolidge Haight apparently updated The Inn in 1892 and some architectural details such as small windows framing the front door are identical to the Manor and the original Inn (once a “select boarding house” and before that a farmhouse). Francis H. Leggett rented The Inn and Innlet as a “summer cottage” to his friends and relatives from 1892-1909 (time of his death). Many famous personages stayed in the Inn (a letter is attached which Historian Charles Cullen discovered which records the visits of some well-known individuals.)

Famous Personages connected to the property:

Francis H. Leggett (born 1840, died 1909) was the very prosperous businessman who started and owned Leggett Foods. Leggett made a great fortune, and owned warehouse in Tribeca, and homes in England, New Hampshire, and Paris. He was internationally known for his grocery business. He partnered with A. Hammond who was a timber baron (who named a famous schooner the Francis H. Leggett after his friend and associate). Leggett was the primary developer of Leggett Road and its surrounds- in a very real way, he created this section of Stone Ridge. He called his estate “Ridgely Park” and had

it designed in the Frederic Olmsted manner as a park with “romantic vistas” and a winding curved driveway, lined by sugar maples. The driveway still exists and leads to The Shawangunk Inn.

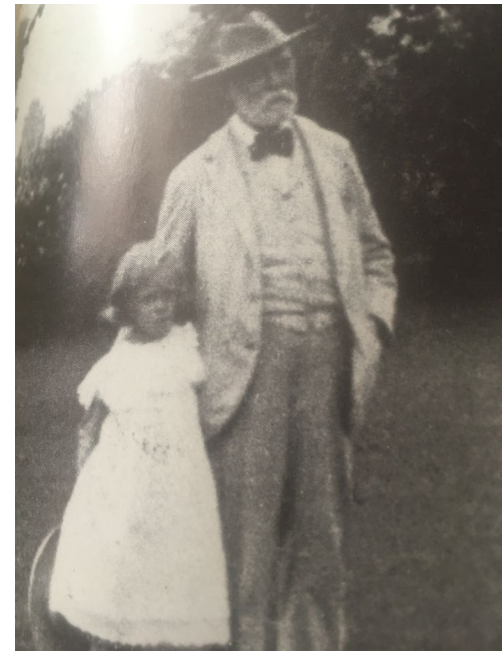


Leggett was also part owner of the lands which later became the National Redwood Forest, through his partnership with A. Hammond. Leggett's direct descendants owned the original Ridgely Manor estate and The Inn until I purchased The Inn with 12.17 acres in 1981.

The Leggett family had often occupied The Inn and Innlet.

Francis H. Leggett's daughter, Frances Leggett Margesson married an English Lord, Lord David Margesson. (Frances is pictured below with her father.)

Lord David Margesson was the Secretary of Navy (War) from 1940-42, under Winston Churchill. The title was inherited by their son Francis Margesson who sold the house to me. Frances Leggett was an author (*Late and Soon*) and though she divorced Lord David Margesson, she was connected to many famous English personages through him, including his mother Isabel Margesson. Lord David often visited Ridgely, the Manor and the Inn.



Henry David Reginald Margesson, 1st Viscount Margesson

M, #84701, b. 26 July 1890, d. 24 December 1965

Henry David Reginald **Margesson**, 1st Viscount Margesson was born on 26 July 1890.-He was the son of Sir Mortimer Reginald **Margesson** and Lady Isabel Augusta **Hobart-Hampden**. He married Frances Howard **Leggett**, daughter of Francis Howard **Leggett** and Elizabeth **McLeod**, on 29 April 1916. He and Frances Howard **Leggett** were divorced in 1940.-He died on 24 December 1965 at age 75.

He was educated at Harrow School, Harrow, London, England. He was educated at Magdalene College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England. -He gained the rank of Captain in the 11th Hussars. -He fought in the First World War.-He was awarded the Military Cross (M.C.) He held the office of Member of Parliament (M.P.) (Unionist) for West Ham Upton between 1922



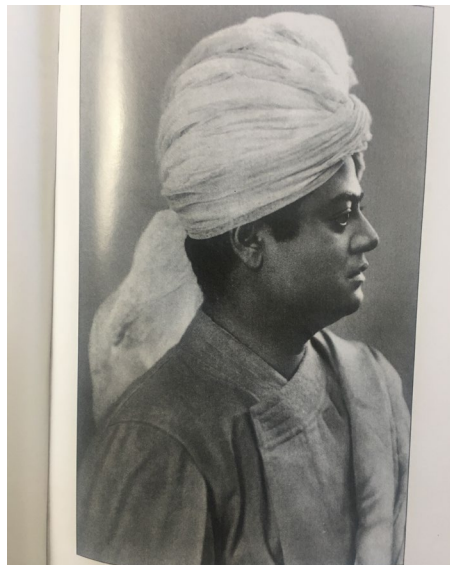
and 1923. He held the office of Member of Parliament (M.P.) (Unionist) for Rugby between 1924 and 1942. He held the office of Junior Lord of the Treasury between 1926 and 1929. He held the office of Junior Lord of the Treasury between August 1931 and October 1931. He was appointed Privy Counsellor (P.C.) in 1933. He held the office of Secretary of State, War between 1940 and 1942. He was director of International Nickel between 1942 and 1960.-He was created *1st Viscount Margesson, of Rugby, co. Warwick [U.K.]* on 27 April 1942.

(From thepeerage.com)

It was through Francis H. Leggett's second wife, Betty MacLeod, and her inseparable sister, Josephine MacLeod, that Francis H. Leggett became a devotee and close associate of the most famous personage connected to the properties:

Swami Vivekananda:

Swami Vivekananda (Bengali; 12 January 1863 – 4 July 1902), born **Narendranath Datta**), was an Indian Hindu monk, a chief disciple of the



Swami Vivekananda, London, 1896.

19th-century Indian mystic Ramakrishna. He was a key figure in the introduction of the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world and is credited with raising interfaith awareness, bringing Hinduism to the status of a major world religion during the late 19th century. He was a major force in the revival of Hinduism in India, and contributed to the concept of nationalism in colonial India. Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission.

He is perhaps best known for his speech in which he introduced Hinduism at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893. The famous speech began with the words - "Sisters and brothers of America... "

Swami Vivekananda spent considerable time on the property beginning in 1895 and often visited The Inn. A photograph of him on the porch of the Inn is included in the book *Saint Sara*, a history of Sarah Bull, and the story of his blessing the two women and the house, is included in several books, listed in the bibliography, *Late and Soon*, (1968 John Murray Publisher, London, England, later Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts by Frances Leggett (daughter of Francis H. Leggett) and *Josephine MacLeod and Vivekananda's Mission by Linda Prugh*, published by Sri Ramakrishna Math Chennai, India (detailed description of the blessing in The Inn on page 195).



Born into an aristocratic Bengali Kayastha family of Calcutta, Vivekananda was inclined towards spirituality. He was influenced by his guru, Ramakrishna, from whom he learned that all living beings were an embodiment of the divine self; therefore, service to God could be rendered by service to humankind. After Ramakrishna's death, Vivekananda toured the Indian subcontinent extensively and acquired first-hand knowledge of the conditions prevailing in British India. He later traveled to the United States, representing India at the 1893 Parliament of the World's Religions. Vivekananda conducted hundreds of public and private lectures and classes, disseminating tenets of Hindu philosophy in the United States, England and Europe. In India, Vivekananda is regarded as a patriotic saint, and his birthday is celebrated as National Youth Day.

He died in India on July 4th, 1902, during a long meditation. It was believed that he had attained an exalted state which ruptured a blood vessel in his brain. Ever since that time, devotees have arrived at Ridgely, now a retreat, and paid their respects for the day of meditation, talks and walks along the shrine trail which encircles the current acreage of the Retreat and borders the property now owned by Laura Cunningham. The



Swami Vivekananda became acquainted with Francis H. Leggett in 1895 – having met him through his soon to be sister-in-law, Josephine MacLeod, who was a follower. Soon, Frank Leggett was impressed and drawn to the young Swami and invited him to his estate Ridgely in Stone Ridge in 1895.

They became so close that Vivekananda accompanied Frank Leggett and his soon to be bride Betty Sturges to Paris, where Frank and Betty were married. Vivekananda stayed at their Paris home.

There soon followed two 10-day visits to Ridgely that same year 1895. During those visits, he was described as a charismatic figure, striding the grounds in his saffron robes. He often meditated under a large oak tree (a young oak is now growing on that spot, at a significant corner of the property- the grandson of Frank Leggett, Lord Francis Margesson's ashes are buried there).

The summer of 1899 was known as "The Great Summer" for the Swami stayed at Ridgely, for 10 full weeks.

Contributing factors:

The drive that winds through the original estate and is still present is called The Avenue.

In 1998, almost 100 years after "The Great Summer", the followers of the Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Order purchased the Leggett Estate, as the 3-building, 82.86 acre property. Some 50 acres had been sold or donated to the creation of Ulster Community College. The pre-existing houses and lands that

had been acquired later were sold to private owners, including The Inn, Cunningham house.

The Retreat established The Shrine Trail which encircles the property, with intermittent small statuary or symbols representing different faiths: a small Buddha, the Holy Virgin, a Jewish Star of David...

The Shawangunk Inn, now privately owned, can be seen in the distance.

Francis H. Leggett died commuting from Binnewater to Weehawken on August 29, 1909, but the estate remained in the family until the Vivekananda purchase in 1998.

Laura Cunningham purchased the Inn and 12.17 acres on July 2, 1981.

Frances Leggett, Frank's daughter, had married David Margesson, who held a prominent position in England as Secretary of the Navy during World War II. For his service, he was awarded a hereditary title of Viscount Lord Margesson. They divorced in 1940.

When the couple divorced, Frances and her three children returned to Ridgely Manor where she remained until her death in 1977.

After her death, her son, Lord Francis Margesson and his wife, Helena and their four children moved into the Manor. Lord and Lady Margesson remained until the sale in 1998.

The existing Retreat houses: The Manor, the Stables and Casino remain almost untouched by time. Many original furnishings remain. The only alterations are the accommodations to allow handicapped access. The current Swami is Gitaprana (Dorothy Baloff) and the current use is for occasional retreats and frequent Vedanta classes. Vivekananda is accepted as a Church and was removed from the Marbletown tax rolls but makes donation in lieu of taxes.

Adjoining Neighbor:

The Pine Farm: The oldest and most significant factor is the Pine Farm (1750, a central room said to be much earlier, 1600s.) , the pre-Revolutionary stone house that was also incorporated by Francis H. Leggett when he established Ridgely Park in 1892. The Marbletown Bicentennial book contains this quoted history and a photograph of an early version of the stone house. "Isaac Hasbrouck, son of Jacob, son of Jean, the Patentee (Patentees were the first 14 Huguenot landowners in Ulster County, immigrated there in 1673, was born in 1722. He married, in 1745, Mary, daughter of Jacobus Bruyn of Shawangunk. They moved to the town of Marbletown and lived in the house in which their son, Severyn afterwards resided, which is still standing, about a mile east of Stone Ridge and now owned by James Pine." *History of New Paltz: Lefever*. In

addition: The family are direct first generation descendants of the original Huguenots who settled in Ulster County

Description of the Inn, the house itself:

The Inn is a sprawling Colonial-style residence, with wide board floors, 3 original fireplaces, and a full unfinished attic and unfinished basement. There is a front porch and two side porches. It has 7 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms, a full kitchen and a pantry kitchen.

The configuration of rooms and porches changed in 1892 when two buildings were joined, the main house "The Inn" and a smaller house "The Innlet". The position of the driveway was changed to include a stone carriage step engraved May 9, 1849.

Behind the house, is the cistern/foundation now adapted for use as a pool.

In front of the house, in the ruin of a burned barn, (circa 1947) rests the remains of a rustic tennis court.

There is a barn (1800s) with cupola that sits at a right angle to the house.

The driveway forms a circle in front of the house, and also loops behind the house to reconnect with the main driveway.

Hi ~ Some more information on your place

July 24, 1907 - Mrs Compton is entertaining a number of guests from Philadelphia. She is a expert reins woman and drives out daily with A. S. Mowell's fine turnout and handsome team of roans.

October 3, 1907:

The Compton family left the "Inn" today for their winter home in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Compton entertained her cousin, Sir Kenelen Digby, K. C. B., and Lady Digby over Sunday.

The "Inn" has been highly honored with distinguished guests this year. When the storm abated on Sunday the baronet viewed the surrounding country from the heights on the Leggett farm. The near by farms were very pretty and homelike.

June 18, 1908 - The Compton's are nicely settled at the Shawangunk Inn for the summer.

SOURCES

Late and Soon by Frances Leggett, John Murray Publishers 1968, (Houghton Mifflin 1968 in the US)

Josephine MacLeod and Vivekananda's Mission by Linda Prugh, published by Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai, India, 2001

Saint Sara, The Life of Sara Chapman Bull, The American Mother of Swami Vivekananda By Pravrajika Prabuddhaprana. 2002