Bard College
The Montgomery Place Campus

January 2017–18 Year-End Report
A Map of a tract of land purchased by Mr. John Livingston in the Town of Redhook, County of Dutchess, State of New York, of the said town, lying through the same.

No lines on the map are unconfirmed. Conterminous to the Field Books.

Scale 2 chains to the inch.
January 2017 marked the start of Bard’s second year of ownership and stewardship of the historic Montgomery Place estate. In the first year, most of our attention went toward getting to know and understand the physical property. While capital improvements continued, a marked increase in academic, cocurricular, and community programming occurred. The following lists summarize the categories of work completed in 2017 or in process at the Montgomery Place campus (MP).
The greatest challenge of acquiring 380 acres and 26 buildings has been the ongoing operation and maintenance of the property. Once again, the Buildings and Grounds crew did an outstanding job. This is evident in the ways the property has improved, both practically and aesthetically, over the past 12 months. Capital improvements, renovations, security upgrades, and maintenance projects included the following:

- **Mansion House**: Installed professional-grade monitoring system to track building shift, extended phone and Wi-Fi service, installed containment systems around oil tanks in basement, secured second-floor bedroom ceiling by replacing floor jacks with code-compliant and preservation-sensitive hardware, cleared and prepped six rooms for fire-safety compliance, painted storm shutters and basement walls (per fire code regulations), installed a temporary handicap ramp, and remediated mold infestation found in breakfast room on first floor.
- **Gardener’s Cottage**: Upgraded electrical systems; installed Wi-Fi, phone system, and HVAC split systems; replaced washer, dryer, and refrigerator; and installed new bathroom floor. Currently being used as second building for Bard Prison Initiative (BPI) administrative offices.
- **Squash Court**: Removed rotted outside deck and replaced with new decking, excavated and expanded parking area to accommodate staff needs, installed new emergency phone and AED systems, and put in new screen doors.
- **Butler Building South**: Cleaned and painted the interior; replaced broken garage door with more secure French doors; installed a gutter system; and fortified a room to store silver, jewelry, guns, swords, and other selected, valuable-collection items.
- **Visitors Center**: Installed emergency phone and electric car-charging station, upgraded handicap ramps and stairs to meet code requirements, and boxed and insulated water line to prevent pipes from freezing.
- **Coach House**: Containment systems installed to protect new and replacement oil tanks, and completed construction of new hub room for all MP phone operations, including installation of an HVAC split system.
- **Main Barn**: Cleaned ground floor and basement of detritus, installed new seamless gutters on east side of building, removed deteriorating chimney, and replaced all rotted wood and broken glass.
- **Farmhouse**: Installed new propane stove that meets code requirements, purchased and put in new dehumidifier equipment, fitted new oil tank and containment system, installed new sliding door, and patched and painted entry ceiling.
- **Farm Stand**: Mounted new drainage system, sink, hot water system, and split-rail fence along Route 9G; replaced flooring; relocated refrigeration systems; refurbished iron cart and Farm Stand sign; and upgraded electrical service.
- **Modular House**: Put in new smoke detectors per code requirements, and installed new oil tank and containment system.
- **Thompson House**: Installed new oil tank and containment system, rebuilt front porch, insulated basement and attic, set up new water main to hook into main campus system, and installed new phone and Wi-Fi cables.
- **Thompson Barn**: Replaced metal roof, rebuilt support system for interior main carrying beam, and repaired barn doors.
- **Well House**: Installed new radon detection system.

**View of the garden on the Montgomery Place campus**
The horticulture and grounds crews, and volunteers continued to restore the many gardens and trails to ensure a safe, enjoyable, and memorable outdoor experience for visitors.

Major capital projects and renovations included:
- Completion of Greenhouse renovation and repair work as part of Burpee Foundation grant received in 2016.
- Repair of loose and unsafe stonework through Ellipse, Rough Garden, and area outside Gardener’s Cottage.
- Installation of hand railings through Rough Garden.
- Draft of request for proposal (RFP) for exterior lighting master plan.

In addition:
- Removed dead and dying trees throughout MP grounds and Farm Stand, cleaned all perennial borders of herb garden and cleared overgrown vegetation around Annandale dam, maintained existing gardens, and planted 500 daffodils of various historic varieties along Greenhouse walkway.
- Researched, created, installed, and took down Historic Garden Tools exhibition presented in the Greenhouse. Exhibition was on display from July to October 2017, and later digitized and posted on MP website.
- Utilized Greenhouse for academic and cocurricular activities by faculty, students, and BPI staff.
- Managed 12 garden volunteers, two Abilities First students, and 20 work study students to assist on grounds and garden upkeep.
- Digitized more than 500 slides of historic MP garden images.
- Contracted with a firm to complete ground-penetrating radar (GPR) analysis of three sites to determine existence of possible tunnels, drainage repositories, and slave grave sites.

Hosted Volunteer Appreciation Field Trip and luncheon.
- Led monthly and special event garden and arboretum tours for Bard and local community members.
- Continued trail maintenance and tree measuring on South Woods Trail by students during Martin Luther King Day of community service.
- Applied for and received a $5,000 grant from the Plymouth Hill Foundation to stage an outdoor garden ornament and furniture exhibition to be held in spring 2019.

An exhibition of antique garden implements held at the Montgomery Place campus Greenhouse tool room.
While the Montgomery Place Orchards (MPO) continue to operate as a stand-alone, for-profit, leased operation under management of private farmers, the College and farm have deepened their mutually agreeable connection. The growing season was an excellent one. As a result, the relationship expanded in new and innovative ways:

- Initiated the “perfect/imperfect” purchasing system between the farm and College, whereby produce that was aesthetically not sellable by the farm’s standards were purchased by the College at a reduced rate to use in food preparation or to produce secondary products such as applesauce. This provided high-quality produce to Chartwells food service and supported Bard’s mission to reduce food waste.
- Explored ways for MPO to utilize Bard’s compost system in an effort to integrate farm operations into larger campus agricultural goals.
- Improved a point-of-sale system so College faculty and staff can purchase food for their offices and programs directly from MPO and have the expense charged to individual budgets.
- Streamlined Chartwells ordering and delivery process to include a greater number of MPO products used in food preparation. Expanded MPO’s doughnut production operation to include direct sales to the College.
- Offered a workshop on making applesauce in collaboration with Bard’s Food Days program, MPO, and Center for Civic Engagement; planning is underway to cohost a kimchee- and sauerkraut-making workshop and an all-day dairy-farm visit and cheese-making activity in collaboration with Bard Eats.

Participated in the following academic and cocurricular programs:

- Food Systems Practicum (Environmental and Urban Studies 305).
- Montgomery Place Fall Salon Series on climate change and agriculture.
- Hosted several campus tours for outside visitors interested in agriculture.
Major progress has been made this past year in organizing and inventorying the Archives Collection. Faculty, staff, and students utilized the archives for a variety of projects. In the coming year, a substantial portion of the material will be posted on the Stevenson Library’s website so that the information is available to the Bard community and general public. Accomplishments included the following:

- Documented and created container lists for 44 boxes of archival materials, soon to be published online.
- Started work and ordered supplies to house the Photography Collection in standard archival formats.
- Installed data logger to chart environmental monitoring of Butler Building.
- Supplied collection items for research purposes to faculty and students who are writing a field guide of MP birds, trees, and plants.
- Researched, provided, and displayed collection materials for several VIP visits, including potential donors.
- Attended meetings of a local history consortium as a representative of the MP Archives.

- Created and supplied several high-resolution scans to authors requesting materials for publication.
- Organized and conducted an oral history by Elliot Lindsley ’52 and neighboring estate owner Richard Jenrette to capture their personal histories of the past 50+ years relating to Montgomery Place.
- Applied for and received a New York State Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services Archival Needs Assessment grant.
- Redesigned Archives Collection storage to accommodate a large compilation of books that needed to be moved off upper floors due to its weight.
Inventorying of the Materials Collection continues. In total, 2,005 accessioned objects were catalogued and 11 rooms were fully inventoried. Approximately 75 percent of the collection has been entered into a spreadsheet and 36 items that were thought to be missing have been located. Also, 220 nonaccessioned items have been inventoried. Photographing of the collection continues. In addition, cataloguers have accomplished the following:

- Uploaded all prior years’ photos to the EmbARK database system and documented 1,360 objects.
- Completed silver and jewelry appraisal.
- Inventoried, appraised, and documented all 43 rugs in the collection. All rugs were inspected by an outside conservator.
- Inventoried and photographed all 104 paintings in the collection. Paintings were taken off walls or brought out from storage and inspected by conservators; hardware was replaced where necessary. Conservators determined the collection is in good condition—no conservation is needed at this time.
- Inventoried textile collections and relocated them to Butler Building South. All accessioned objects were entered into a spreadsheet.
- Loaned two chairs to Boscobel House and Gardens for the exhibition “Make-Do: Curiously Repaired Antiques.”
- Completed deep cleaning of Mansion House entry, first floor hall, and Cross Hall.
- Inventoried garden furniture collection; selected items were photographed.
- Trained three new student workers, two staff, and four volunteers to assist in various aspects of collection inventory, storage management, and photography.
- Worked with Visual Resources Department to create online Historic Garden Tools exhibition for publication on MP website.

An exhibition organized by the Engaged Liberal Arts and Sciences (ELAS) class in the village of Red Hook.
For the second year, Bard expanded public access to MP by increasing the length of the house-tour season by two months. Several new special events were initiated. Implementation of an earned-income, special events program is being planned in the coming year.

Academic activities:
• Engaged Liberal Arts and Sciences (ELAS) history class taught by Professor Myra Young Armstead culminated in a public exhibition held at Red Hook Village Hall.
• Astronomy Evening, led by Professor Eleni Kontou, held at Visitors Center.
• Biology Evening Owl Walk was led by Professor Bruce Robertson.
• Lifetime Learning Institute held two grounds tours and one lecture.
• Staff and community volunteers gave 84 tours; 460 people toured the house.
• Instituted the first Salon Series, on climate change in the Hudson Valley. During the off-tour season, four lectures took place in the parlor of the Mansion House and each session sold out. Lecturers were a combination of Bard faculty and outside experts. Salon Series was produced in partnership with the Good Work Institute.
• Hosted the Greater Hudson Heritage annual conference; more than 125 attendees participated.
• Produced the first public outdoor Conservatory Concert on west lawn of the Mansion House; more than 100 people attended.
• Hosted the Fisher Center’s SummerScape Gala.
• Hosted one wedding for a senior staff member.
• Scheduled open-house tours for First-Years Opening Day, Commencement, Family Weekend, Discovery Day, and Accepted Students Day.
• Participated in New York State Path Through History Program and Hudson River Ramble by providing outdoor, extended grounds tours.
• Hosted dance programs in conjunction with Vanaver Caravan and Jill Ann Schwartz dancers.
Great strides were made this year in establishing a data management system for the Materials Collection and archives. EmbARK, a data management system also used by the Center for Curatorial Studies, was installed and basic training offered to relevant staff. In addition, Google team drives were established to facilitate sharing of large amounts of information.

- Installed image file system on EmbARK system and 2,780 photo images were uploaded into the system.
- Updated 7,137 object files to reflect new and current locations, valuations for the objects that had been appraised, and updated data regarding object date ranges.
- Installed web kiosk on EmbARK server to post information that eventually can be publicly viewed.
- Held two training sessions for staff.
- Installed data management software on four MP computers.
- Modified master reports that are generated through the EmbARK system and created a hierarchy of location inputs to place into the system.
- Assisted in records searches for objects listed as missing in inventory.

Page from a journal kept by Violetta Delafield that catalogues flora and fauna of Montgomery Place, c. 1925.
The integration of Montgomery Place campus and Annandale campus continues to be the central and most important priority of the Bard administration.

- Initiated shuttle transportation between campuses to serve students taking classes and working at the estate. Transportation service will expand to include the full Bard community in 2018–19.
- Added seasonal, part-time staff to assist student and faculty access to the archives and collections.
- Encouraged all Montgomery Place staff to attend various training and staff development programs pertaining to working on/at historic properties.
- Provided logistical and academic support for faculty holding classes at Montgomery Place.

**Press and public relations:**

- Website upgraded and expanded to include information on programs, student projects, and exhibitions.
- General information brochure updated and distributed throughout campus.
- New Walking Tour Guide completed and distributed throughout campus.
- Coordinated press releases for community programs with Bard’s Public Relations Office.
- Continued to meet with local historians and preservation groups to build community relations regarding programming, accessibility, and preservation goals.
Fund-Raising

More than $625,000 has been raised from individual donors, private foundations, and earned income.

Institutional grants received:
• Anne Cox Chambers Foundation
• Burpee Foundation
• Gerry Charitable Trust
• Martin and Toni Sosnoff Foundation
• Millbrook Garden Club
• Plymouth Hill Foundation

Individual gifts received:
• Fiona Angelini and Jamie Welch
• Elizabeth Ely ’65 and Jonathan Greenburg

Matching funds for Gerry Charitable Trust grant totaling $31,700 received from:
• John Winthrop Aldrich
• Nick Ascenzio
• Joni Friedman and Andrew Torgove
• Kathleen Hammer and Arthur Seelbinder
• Charles and Valerie Jacob
• Max Kenner ’01
• Gerry and Sherri Lublin Family Fund
• Amy and Thomas Maggs
• Shyer Family Charitable Fund

Grants to be submitted:
• Greater Hudson Heritage Network grant to subsidize costs of archival and collections supplies

Grants to be resubmitted:
• New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation—$500,000 for exterior renovation of Mansion House and Farmhouse

Pledges:
• Joyce Capuano and Chris Berardi to support fall 2018 Salon Series on local agriculture

Earned income:
• Mansion House tour income—$2,588
• Salon Series on climate change admission fees—$500
• Copyright and reproduction fees—$600

In-kind donations:
• David Bull and Teresa Longyear, parents of David Bull Jr. ’16—donated two days of conservator services
• Deborah Trupin—textile and rug conservation review
• Jobson Flooring—area rugs to protect parlor rugs during Salon Series lectures
• Boscobel House and Gardens—14 books and pamphlets for volunteer training

Institutional grants pending:
• National Trust for Historic Preservation—$60,000 for research on African American heritage
• Educational Foundation of America—$5,000 to support a series of outdoor concerts produced by the Fisher Center
In 2018, a major focus will be to find support for building renovations. We hope that once architectural plans for an adaptive reuse of the Mansion House and a campus lighting plan have been completed, these documents will pave the way to identifying new funding sources through grants and individual donations.

Ongoing maintenance and small capital projects will continue. Projects that are underway and expected to be completed in the coming year include upgrading the Visitors Center for safety, installing new signage consistent with Bard style, and cleaning out various buildings such as the third floor of the Coach House and the cottages on Annandale Road.

Inventorying the collections and archives will continue with an eye toward creating more opportunities for student involvement.

Regarding the Materials Collection and Archives, a priority will be to adopt a formal collections management policy that will guide the College in its future definition, use, and care of accessioned and unaccessioned objects. If funding is available, we will appraise the painting collection. For the archives, new shelving will be installed that will allow the Edward Livingston Law Library to be catalogued, shelved, and made available to researchers. We also hope to begin cataloguing the extensive photograph and slide collection.

In terms of programming, several academic classes have been proposed for the fall 2018 semester and are under review with the dean of the College and others. The spring and fall Salon Series, with focuses on A. J. Davis’s architecture and local agriculture, are in the planning stages. The Fisher Center will produce a series of on-site programs and the Conservatory will hold additional outdoor concerts. Last, in addition to regularly scheduled Mansion House tours, special grounds tours will be programmed in conjunction with the statewide Path Through History and regional Hudson River Ramble programs.
Janet Livingston Montgomery, by Cora Livingston.
Pencil on paper, c. 1820.

General Richard Montgomery

Photos: Bard College, Montgomery Place Collection; Chris Kendall ’82; Jackson Siegel
Bard College Conservatory of Music students perform on the portico of the Mansion House during the 2017 SummerScape Gala