

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 14 1979
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See Form Dated 11-20-79

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate ("Lakeview")

AND/OR COMMON
Gaukler Point

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1100 Lakeshore Drive NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Grosse Pointe Shores CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
St. Clair Shores VICINITY OF 12
STATE Michigan CODE 026 COUNTY Macomb CODE 099

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>conference center</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME *See amended form*
Edsel and Eleanor Ford House Foundation

STREET & NUMBER 1100 Lakeshore Drive
CITY, TOWN Grosse Pointe Shores VICINITY OF Michigan STATE 48236

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Macomb County Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Cass & Gratiot Streets (P. O. Box 607)
CITY, TOWN Mt. Clemens STATE Michigan 48043

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Michigan State Survey Data

DATE 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Michigan History Division - Department of State
CITY, TOWN Lansing STATE Michigan 48918

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edsel and Eleanor Ford estate encompasses 87.5 acres and includes the following structures:

Gate House	Play House
House	Tool Shed
Swimming Pool	Power House
Recreation House	

The Ford estate occupies the largest and most beautifully-situated homesite in the wealthiest and most exclusive section of Grosse Pointe that stretches along the shore of Lake Saint Clair, northeast of industrial Detroit. Gaukler Point was endowed by nature with a commanding view of the water and the grounds were enhanced by the subtle artistry of landscape architect Jens Jensen who skillfully created a lagoon (#8) inlet for boating enthusiast Edsel Ford and framed the lake view with handsome plantings. A large meadow (#9) rimmed with stately trees separates the house from the noise and traffic of Lakeshore Drive and a curving driveway (#10) leads from the forbidding Gate House (#1) around the meadow's periphery, along the lake, and to the rambling Cotswold house (#2) at the end of the drive. The ambience thus created is of an English country manor.

Southwest of the house are formal gardens (#11) surrounded by low walls and steps which lead to concentric circles of low plantings of ground cover, roses, and seasonal flowers, interspersed with gravel walks. In the center is a square pool with four stone frog fountains and on the south side, there is a fountain set into a wall with a spouting dolphin and lead basin below. Beyond the garden is a rectangular pool. A second, less formal garden (#12) of clipped hedges and a semicircle of evergreens is west of the flower garden and rectangular stone pool and next to a copse of fruit trees and ground cover.

South of the house is the recreation area. An L-shaped Recreation House (#4), built, like the main house, of stone with stone shingled roof, contains a handball court, a large enclosed lounge with tudor-arched fireplace for "camp cooking," showers and dressing rooms. It is a short walk to the 132 foot by 40 foot swimming pool (#3) fed by cast-lead animal fountains. The pool, with water warmed by one of the three power house boilers, drains into the adjacent pond (#13) and then into Lake Saint Clair. The pool-pond complex is set in a lovely birch grove.

Continuing along the southern periphery of the estate, the next building is a charming brick and stucco Play House (#5) with tudor half-timbered gable ends containing panels illustrating popular nursery rhymes. The interior is divided into three rooms: a bedroom, a kitchen complete with built-in refrigerator, and a living room with Georgian pine panelling, corner cupboards and bay windows and

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a working fireplace. The floors are pegged oak, and six foot ceilings and reduced scale are ideal for making a small child feel like mistress of her house.

Continuing around the curving path to where it intersects with the main drive, one again comes upon the Gate Lodge, a building of smooth ashlar with battlemented tower and a timber ceilinged arch spanning the driveway. The Gate House contains the residence of the chief-of-staff, the chauffeur's apartment, and a third staff apartment on the second floor, reached by an exterior staircase. There is a multi-car garage with a turntable and a paved open parking area. The fortress-like architecture of the Gate House successfully connotes its function of closely monitoring visitors to the property. In contrast to the open, informal and welcoming configuration of the residence, the Gate House, with its heavy wooden gates, small but emphatic "Private" sign, and the presence of a security man in the small office under the arch all contributed to an exclusive mien.

Twelve hundred feet north of the entrance is the Tool Shed, (#6) greenhouse, and landscape equipment storage buildings, adjacent to a large vegetable garden. The service buildings are in brick and change in material, plus their simple rectangular shape, indicates their functional character. More massive and more in keeping with the architecture of the house is the Power House (#7) which is really a misnomer. Unlike Henry Ford's Fairlane where the power plant originally generated electricity for the estate, this Power House simply houses the heating, cooling, and water treatment equipment for the property. Two hundred feet north of the residence and separated from the service wing by a stone parking area, it is connected to the house by an underground tunnel. The double gable Power House is built of sandstone with split stone roof and only the absence of windows and the massive chimneys reveal its function. In contrast to the rustic exterior, the interior is a vision of modern efficiency with white glazed brick walls, shiny brass fittings and three huge boilers.

The 60-room mansion, (#2C) the centerpiece of the estate, is of rough Briar Hill sandstone with split stone roof softened by occasional clumps of dull green moss. The driveway ends in a circle on the west side and affords a view of a broad, rambling facade with a modest tudor-arched entrance surmounted by a graceful iron lantern. South of the entrance is the gallery with its massive end-wall chimney and large projecting rectangular bay window with leaded glass insets. A cloistered passage connects the gallery to the

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drawing room and a stone balustrade ties together the two southern wings of the house on the exterior. A small terrace nestles in the space created between the wings and was often canopied and used for parties. On the east side, the house looks out to the lake with a five-arched loggia (#2B) opening on a broad terrace which affords a splendid view of the trees and the water. The arrangement of the house, a wide, shallow building with asymmetrical wings, is quite apparent on the lake side. To one side of the terrace is the library and on the other is the morning room. The architect arrayed many of the family bedrooms and some of the first floor entertainment spaces along the east side to maximize the accessibility to the lake view. At the north end of the house is the service wing with a small and very private yard for the staff.

In addition to the picturesque massing of the facade, exterior interest is created by the subtle gradation in size of the roofing stones which range from "large and shaggy at the eaves to miniscule at the ridges" and by the delicate floral ornament on the downspouts. Large trees and lush foundation plantings serve to soften and anchor the building and the additive character of the various wings and bays, and the asymmetry of the fenestration and chimneys give an informal accretive feeling to what is, in fact, a grand and elegant residence.

A small dark vestibule opens on a 19 foot by 38 foot hall with stone walls and floor and Jacobean plastered ceiling. Directly opposite are wrought iron double doors to the loggia, to the left an oak staircase from Lyvedon Hall, Northants, England, leads to the second floor. The library, (#2D) 22 by 33 feet, with English panelling and bookcase walls features a Caen stone fireplace brought from Derne Park (Northants); it has two bays, one accommodating a small desk, the other facing east and providing a view of the lake. West of the library is the drawing room, (#2E) 25 by 42 feet, remodeled in the mid-1950s and now containing a red marble bowfront mantel, dark parquet floors and green walls highlighted with touches of gilt. The most spectacular room in the house is the gallery, (#2F) measuring 25 by 60 feet, which features linenfold panelling flanking an immense stone-hooded Gothic fireplace, a barrel vaulted ceiling with intricately carved ornament, plank floor, and a floor to ceiling bay window and stone walls. It is connected to the drawing room by a cloistered passage.

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North of the central hall are a morning room and dining room with Georgian knotty pine panelling from the Clock House (Upminster, England) and white pine mantels carved in the style of Grinling Gibbons. The dining room mantel and door lintel rest on wooden caryatids. A small study with coffered panelling and plank floor and a sleek Art Deco music room (#2G) with mirrored tile walls and built-in cabinet niche, indirect lighting and lacewood banquettes and mantel, complete the public rooms of the first floor.

Art Deco is the style of two of the upstairs bedroom suites (#2H) and both feature light wood furnishings, brass tubular lighting, supplemented by simple, modern lamps, built-in headboards and bookcases, and brass window mullions and moldings. The remaining bedrooms are much more traditional, for example, Josephine Ford's room dominated by a four-poster bed with flowered chintz canopy.

The most opulent is the master bedroom suite; one room is a boudoir in ivory and pink with leafy carved moldings and a pinky-brown marble fireplace. At the south end of the long second story hall is the master bedroom (#2I) with small wrought iron balcony looking out over the gallery and its small yard, known as the "apple orchard" for the trees which once grew there, and offering a sweeping view toward the swimming pool. Mrs. Ford's dressing room with built-in closets and cabinets with floral motifs painted on the doors and drawers, is connected to the bedroom by a bathroom featuring gold faucets and built-in floor scales. Additional clothing storage is provided by cedar closets in the attic and cold storage for furs in the basement.

The house is furnished throughout with carefully chosen English antiques and hung with paintings, some, for example Renoir's Cup of Chocolate, originals; others, as in the base of Titian and Gozzoli, reproductions of those donated to the Detroit Institute of Art. The only room to have been remodeled after Mrs. Ford's death, was the former laundry which has recently been converted into the office of the director of the foundation.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1927-30 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Albert Kahn - Architect
Albert A. Albrecht - Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate is a very significant property, for it brings together three of the most important and influential people who shaped twentieth century Detroit: Albert Kahn, the innovative and prolific architect; Edsel Ford, son of the founder and himself President of the Ford Motor Company; and Eleanor Clay Ford, a niece of retailing pioneer, Joseph Lothian Hudson, and one of Detroit's cultural and social leaders. The house is a superb example of the predilection for English architecture of the early automotive tycoons and reflects the sensibility and taste of Mr. and Mrs. Ford for great art and noble architecture. "Edsel Ford cares for the beautiful, knows what is art and what is not. . . [Edsel and Eleanor's] home on Lakeshore Drive. . . reflects their sense of combining the useful with the beautiful."¹ It indicates the extent to which they were educated by leading art scholars to appreciate and acquire superb works of art and to choose an architect and interior designers who could provide an appropriate setting for their paintings, their elegant life style and their growing family. In addition, the Ford Estate is one of the most notable works of the great landscape architect Jens Jensen and one of the few remaining unaltered examples of his designs in Michigan. Gaukler Point is a monument to private wealth, educated taste, and a sense of public responsibility which resulted in its preservation and the establishment of an endowment to maintain the property and make it available to cultural, philanthropic, and educational groups.

Edsel Bryant Ford, born November 6, 1893, was the only child of Clara Bryant and Henry Ford, and, from the beginning, was trained by his father to assume leadership of the company. Educated in public schools and the Detroit University School, he did not go on to college, as his mother had hoped, but began his apprenticeship at the Ford Motor Company, serving as his father's secretary beginning in 1912, and as the company secretary. Promoted to vice-president after his marriage, in 1919 he was named president and later president and treasurer. Despite his corporate responsibilities, he maintained an active interest in the arts. He took painting lessons from Detroit artist, John Carroll, and attended weekly classes at the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts. In the 1920s, Detroit Institute of Art Director William Valentiner accompanied Eleanor and Edsel to Europe where they began to collect art and, during this period, the Fords and Eleanor's sister

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Detroit Free Press (March 27, 1944).
 Detroit Free Press (December 1, 1978).
 Detroit News (March 29, 1944).
 Ferry, W. Hawkins, The Buildings of Detroit, (Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1968).
 Ford, Eleanor Clay, "Last Will and Testament" Mount Clements, Michigan, Macomb County Probate Court, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 87.48

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	3,4,5	8,4,0	4,7	0,2	3,5,0	B	1,7	3,4,6	3,2,5	4,7	0,1	9,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1,7	3,4,6	3,1,0	4,7	0,1	5,3,0	D	1,7	3,4,5	3,9,5	4,7	0,1	6,6,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached Mason L. Brown & Son for legal description and sketch map for boundaries.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rochelle S. Elstein, Assistant Historian

May 4, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Michigan History Division - Department of State

DATE

(517) 373-0510

STREET & NUMBER

Lansing

TELEPHONE

Michigan 48918

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL
see note from SHPO

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Martin A. Bigelow

TITLE

Director Michigan History Division, D.O.S.

DATE

June 7, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7-24-79

ATTEST:

Emma Jane Sals

DATE

7-19-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Coordinator

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Josephine and her husband, Ernest Kanzler, regularly attended Detroit Institute of Art seminars on art history. Edsel served for two decades on the Detroit Arts Commission and Eleanor assumed his role after his death, serving with distinction for twenty years. They contributed substantially to the Detroit Institute of Art which named a wing in their memory posthumously, for, with characteristic modesty, Mrs. Ford eschewed the honor during her lifetime. Mr. Ford also served on the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The significant role that art played in their lives is reflected in their collection of paintings, which included works of Gozzoli, Titian, Renoir, Cezanne, and Copley, and the prominent place of the Gallery in the design of their house. Edsel was an active sportsman, racing in speedboat regattas, owning several boats, including a 125 foot yacht, and building his homes near the water, notably Gaukler Point and Seal Harbor, Maine.

Eleanor was also born and educated in Detroit; her father was William Clay, her mother J. L. Hudson's sister, Eliza Hudson Clay. When Eleanor's father died in 1908, Eliza and her two daughters moved into her bachelor brother's home at 63 Boston Boulevard and it was in that house that Eleanor and Edsel married in 1916. A graduate of the Liggett School, Eleanor was interested in music and dance, and taught tap dancing at the Franklin Settlement in 1915, which reflected both her interest in the arts and her commitment to the less fortunate. Born in June, 1896, Eleanor and Edsel grew up near each other, but love bloomed when they renewed acquaintance at Annie Ward Foster's dancing classes. Like Edsel, Eleanor's formal education ended with high school but she continued to read widely and her knowledge of and interest in all the arts was extensive. Undoubtedly her education in the visual arts was furthered by her dear companion and cousin, famed art collector and museum benefactor, Robert Hudson Tannahill. She served on the Board of the Detroit Symphony and Detroit Institute of Art and was a founder of the Archives of American Art in 1955. A very private and soft-spoken woman, devoted to her children and tragically widowed at age 47, she nonetheless led the fight against her formidable father-in-law and used her control of 54% of the Ford Motor Company stock to ensure that her son, Henry, would succeed to the company leadership after his father's death in 1943. She died October 19, 1976 at 80 years of age, a much mourned figure on the Detroit cultural and social scene.

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Edsel and Eleanor Ford first lived at 439 Iroquois (now 2171 Iroquois) where their sons Henry (born 1917) and Benson (1919) were born. In 1920 they moved to 7930 Jefferson Avenue, a 25 room limestone mansion built for lumber baron Albert L. Stephens by architect George D. Mason. It featured "triple-arched loggias which took advantage of the impressive site overlooking the Detroit River opposite Belle Isle."² "Edsel Ford made extensive changes in the house and had the property beautifully landscaped. It ran down to the river, and he had a swimming pool near the house. The landscaping was done by a Danish landscape architect named Jens Jensen."³ Here, daughter Josephine (born 1923) and son William Clay (1925) were born, but soon the Ford family would join the exodus of wealthy Detroiters to the open country of Grosse Pointe. Between 1911 and 1913, Henry Ford purchased the land known as Gaukler's Point, fifteen miles northeast of downtown Detroit, from Josephine Gaukler and the Trombley family, but when he built his own estate, it was nearer his boyhood home. Henry Ford built Fairlane in Dearborn, perhaps because of his contempt for "those damn stiff-necked Grosse Pointe sons-o-bitches,"⁴ When his son began to contemplate building a new and more secluded residence, the 87 acre site with its 3000 foot frontage on Lake Saint Clair afforded proximity to the Ford plant, a splendid pristine lake-front location, an ideal spot for a boating enthusiast, and an opportunity to guarantee privacy and security for a young family whose wealth and prominence made them apprehensive about kidnapers and extortionists, curious citizens and members of the press.

The Grosse Pointe area was first settled by Europeans around 1750, fifty years after the founding of Fort Pontchartrain by the French. Like the Detroit riverfront, the lakeshore area was divided into long narrow "ribbon farms" with houses built near the water and farm land extending as much as a mile back. Captain Alexander Grant bought a 640 acre farm on the present site of Grosse Pointe Farms and his 280 foot hewn-log house was the gathering place for British officers and Detroit society. After the British left Michigan following the War of 1812, Grosse Pointe was farm and wilderness but between 1840 and 1910, many wealthy Detroiters built summer homes along the lake. When the motorcar made Grosse Pointe accessible to businessmen, some built year-around homes in the area. Reflecting the same settlement pattern as Detroit, the peninsula known as Gaukler Pointe was originally Pointe á Guinole, as the French called it. Later it

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was bought by the Richard Trombley family and called Tremble Point or Milk River Point; in 1876 Jacob Gaukler owned the 400 acre site known as Gaukler Pointe. Ample evidence attested to its popularity as a Chippewa and Huron Indian campground: in 1927, as excavation was beginning for the Ford house, a silver Indian bracelet was dug up and preserved in Edsel Ford's collection. As the Detroit News noted in a romantic reverie: "The new Ford home necessitating the labor of 200 men is fast changing the landscape where once stood a village of Indian tents."⁵ The Village of Grosse Pointe Shores was incorporated in 1911 but Gaukler Point was not readily accessible until the new Lakeshore Drive was extended to it from Grosse Pointe Farms in 1930-1931.

The association of Albert Kahn and the Ford family dates back to 1909 when Henry Ford hired the architect, fresh from his successes with the Packard Motor Car Company and Burroughs Adding Machine Company buildings. In response to the needs of a new and unprecedented manufacturing system, Albert Kahn, who never "felt that designing a factory was beneath his dignity,"⁶ turned his attention to solving the problems of the moving assembly line. "To an extraordinary degree the necessary imagination, organizational ability, scientific knowledge, and understanding of functional and human needs were combined in the person of Albert Kahn."⁷ But when it came to domestic building, Kahn was much more historical than his factory buildings would suggest and he wrote: "'In architecture to be worthy of a title there must ever be dignity and good taste.'" In 1915 he designed the Grosse Pointe Shores Village Hall for which he turned to English models where he "rediscovered the charm and livability of traditional English dwelling."⁸ In the first decade of the century, he had designed several Grosse Pointe houses, for Charles Swift, Horace Dodge, and Henry Joy, for example, but by the 1920s, the volume of industrial work left him little time for domestic commissions. It is a measure of Edsel Ford's importance as a client that Kahn not only designed the house himself but spent much time in research on the English precedents. By 1920, "the taste of his clients and his own reverence for the past let him increasingly toward more traditional forms in his non-industrial work."⁹

That which epitomized dignity and good taste in domestic architecture for the Fords were the buildings of the English countryside, particularly that of the Cotswold country.

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When Mr. and Mrs. Ford decided to build their Lake Shore residence they proceeded to carry out two basic ideas. They wanted a modest and picturesque home--not a palace or fortress--and they wanted its architecture to reproduce faithfully the beautiful and practical Cotswold houses of Worcestershire, England.

The Fords made many visits to the Cotswold District; they engaged in considerable research on the history and construction of Cotswold houses; and then secured the services of Albert Kahn, architect, to design and build the home. . .

Mr. Kahn went abroad for further study of the quaint Cotswold structures, and to make sketches and photographs of a myriad of details.¹⁰

Many of the details were incorporated into the Ford house as were building materials sent from England, notably roofing stones, interior panelling, fireplaces and the great oak staircase in the entry hall. The interior of the house was the responsibility of the New York firm of Irving Casson and Company, who were designers much favored by eastern artistocrats like the Rockefellers whom the Fords knew from their summers at Seal Harbor. According to one architectural historian,¹¹ the Casson office worked closely with Albert Kahn in choosing building and decorative items from English homes and were in charge of installing them in the Grosse Pointe house. Casson played a major role in the selection of the furnishings for Gaukler Point and, in fact, was a contractor for the interior of the house, choosing and supervising subcontractors for the decorative work, such as the plaster ceilings done on the premises, as well as overseeing the installation of the imported panelling, fireplaces, and other elements.

Henry Ford was also very taken with Cotswold architecture as noted by H. F. Morton, Ford Motor Company engineer in England and Henry's travel companion along the backroads of the Cotswold country. Around the time that Edsel's house was being built, his father had Morton purchase and ship to Greenfield Village a modest shepherd's cottage which was reconstructed in Dearborn in 1931.

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Cotswold motifs were also employed by Kahn in some of his other Grosse Pointe homes, for example, the 1929 mansion of Alvan Macauley also on Lakeshore Drive.

The Ford family moved into the Gaukler Point house, probably early in 1931 and were quite comfortable and happy in their new home which soon became a Detroit area landmark. In 1930 the house won the First Award in the Residential Class of the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and medals were awarded to architect Albert Kahn and builder Albert A. Albrecht. By 1935 the Fords decided to undertake the remodelling which resulted in the Art Deco bedroom suite and first floor music room. The latter, "a surprising element. . .in an English manor house"¹² is a smooth, modern, remarkably advance gem of a room with built-in furniture in the blond finish so characteristic of the style, with large expanses of glass and indirect lighting. The music room and the two upstairs bedrooms, sitting room, and bath were the work of Walter Dorwin Teague a pioneer in industrial design who, in his own estimation, ranked with the giants of twentieth century modernism.¹³ Teague's collaborations with Kahn and the Ford Motor Company were extensive during the 1930s; he designed the 1935 Ford Motor Company Exhibit in San Diego, and did the interiors for Kahn's Ford Motor Company Pavilion "The City of the Future," at the 1939 New York World's Fair. As the illustrations in his book reveal, the same mirror-tiled walls, built-in banquettes, and blond furniture which he used in the Pavilion's Executive Lounge were repeated in the Edsel Ford house. While Eleanor and Edsel's tasteran more toward French and English antiques, "they were young enough to be, on occasion, daringly upbeat. The designs of the music room and the boys' suite reflect the important innovations that the father was at the same time bringing to automotive design."¹⁴

Edsel Ford was operated on for severe stomach ulcers in 1941 but the necessity to convert the Ford automotive plant to a war contractor, and the creation of a new 47,000 worker bomber plant at Willow run by 1943, imposed such pressure on him that his intestinal ailment recurred, became malignant, and his condition, complicated by undulant fever, worsened. After a painful six weeks, he died at 1:30 a.m., May 26, 1943 at his Grosse Pointe residence with his wife and three of his children present during his final hours. The family and indeed all Detroiters were

(continued)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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stricken by the loss of this kind, compassionate, hard-working, devoted husband and father who did not live to celebrate his 50th birthday. By the terms of his will, the Gaukler Point estate became the property of his wife, who at first felt it to be too large for her own modest needs and turned it over to the real estate firm of Reaume and Silloway. They offered it for sale at \$500,000 "on suitable terms" and lured prospective buyers with a lavishly-produced brochure describing the property in detail and illustrating it with numerous photographs. Articles in Detroit newspapers underscored the bargain price; the property which was assessed at \$2,167,000 had actually cost the Fords more than \$3 million in construction and maintenance costs.¹⁵ The realtor asked that the property be reassessed, believing that the \$102,000 annual property taxes impeded the sale and newspapers noted that "Edsel Ford's good works handicap sale of estate"¹⁶ because of his having agreed to such a high assessment.

The Wayne County Board of Supervisors proposed that the estate be converted into a public park when it became obvious, by mid-1945, that a sale would not be consummated, but the Grosse Pointe community, appalled at the probability of increased traffic, noise and refuse, not to mention the attendant loss of tax revenues, opposed the idea. Late in 1945, Mrs. Ford withdrew the house from the realtor and decided to continue to reside there, which she did until her death in 1976.

In 1955-56, Mrs. Ford had the drawing room remodeled from its original English style to French and she continued to add furniture and objets d'art to her collection. She entertained her family with lavish celebrations, especially at Christmastime, and gave parties for her debutante granddaughters as well as elegant dinners for friends. "Eleanor Clay Ford, inspired by her husband and her own innate good taste, had great pride and love for her home continuously giving it care and affection."¹⁷ In her later years she especially loved a daily walk around the magnificent grounds and it was she, who lived at Gaukler Pont the longest and loved it best, who provided the most sensitive and cogent statement of its significance:

I have given much thought to the future of my home at Gaukler Point and have consulted with my children and others as to what should be its future. Where once there were many extraordinary residences,

(continued)

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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mine is the last to remain, for the change in our manner of living, and in our taxes, and in our attitudes have resulted in the demolition of all the others. Elsewhere in our country, and in England and other parts of Europe, ways have been found to preserve such residences for some form of public use, and they remain as witnesses to the past, as part of the history of the area, and as an enrichment in the lives of future generations.

The dwelling itself was built for my husband Edsel and me half a century ago by one of the country's greatest architects, Albert Kahn, in the style of the Cotswold section of England and it contains many beautiful touches not to be found elsewhere in this country and doubtless never to be done again.

I have also taken note of the need in our society of preserving open spaces, of the increase in leisure time and the increased opportunity for leisure activities, and of the importance of fostering an interest in our history and traditions.

Moved by these and other considerations, and especially because mine is the last of the many great homes in this area, I have decided to leave my residence along with suitable furnishings, in such manner as to allow the residence to remain and the property to be used for the benefit of the public, and I have also decided to provide an endowment, so that all this may be possible.¹⁸

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Footnotes

- ¹Detroit News, November 6, 1940.
- ²W. Hawkins Ferry, The Buildings of Detroit (Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1968), p. 223.
- ³A. J. Lepine, "The Reminiscences of A. J. Lepine," (Dearborn, Ford Motor Company Archives, Oral History Section, July, 1952), p. 71.
- ⁴Quoted by Thomas E. Loughlin, Edsel Ford's security chief in Detroit News Sunday Magazine, December 4, 1977, p. 31.
- ⁵Detroit News, March 20, 1927.
- ⁶Ferry, The Buildings of Detroit, p. 179.
- ⁷Ferry, The Buildings of Detroit, p. 183.
- ⁸W. Hawkins Ferry, The Legacy of Albert Kahn, (Detroit, Detroit Institute of Arts, 1970), p. 15.
- ⁹Ferry, The Legacy of Albert Kahn, p. 18-19.
- ¹⁰Reaume and Silloway, "The Edsel B. Ford Lake Shore Estate," (Detroit, n.d. (ca. 1944), p. 2-3.
- ¹¹Telephone conversation with Thomas Holleman of Smith, Hinchman, and Grylls, Detroit, April 23, 1979.
- ¹²Jerome Irving Smith, "The Home of Mrs. Edsel B. Ford," Twelfth Annual Liggett University Show Catalog (Detroit, 1977), p. 77.
- ¹³"The modern style is seen crystallized in the work of LeCorbusier, Gropius, Wright: or of Dreyfus, Rhode, Geddes, Teague." Walter Dorwin Teague, Design This Day (New York, Harcourt, Brace, Co., 1940), p. 215.
- ¹⁴Andrew Craig Morrison, "The Home on Gaukler Point," Twelfth Annual Liggett University Show Catalog, (Detroit, 1977), p. 73.

(continued)

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Footnotes

¹⁵Detroit Free Press, March 27, 1944.

¹⁶Detroit News, March 29, 1944.

¹⁷Smith, "The Home of Mrs. Edsel B. Ford," p. 77.

¹⁸Eleanor Clay Ford, "Last Will and Testament," on file at the Macomb County Probate Court, Mount Clemens, Michigan, p. 3-4.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Bibliographical

CONTINUATION SHEET

References

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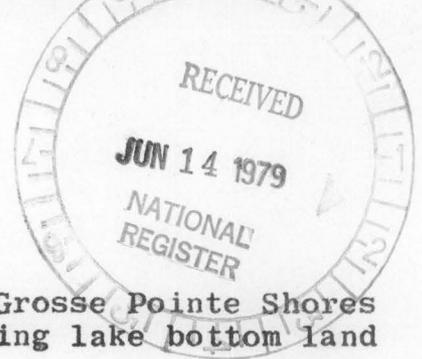
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Kahn, Albert, "The Estate of Edsel B. Ford" (Detroit 1926-7), Plans on file at Michigan History Division

Morrison, Andrew Craig, "The Home on Gaukler Point" Twelfth Annual Liggett University Show Catalog (Detroit, 1977).

Reaume and Silloway Co., "The Edsel B. Ford Lake Shore Estate" (Detroit, ca. 1944).

Smith, Jerome Irving, "The Home of Mrs. Edsel B. Ford" Twelfth Annual Liggett University Show Catalog (Detroit, 1977).



Parcel "A" - Description of Parcel in Village of Grosse Pointe Shores
Northerly of Lake Shore Road (including lake bottom land
island)

All that part of Private Claims 624 and 544 lying East of the line dividing the City of St. Clair Shores and Village of Grosse Pointe Shores and lying N'y of Lake Shore Road and extending to the shores of Lake St. Clair as found in May, 1977, all in the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores (formerly Lake Township), Macomb County, Michigan and described as: Beginning at the intersection of the dividing line between the City of St. Clair Shores and Village of Grosse Pointe Shores and the N'y line of Lake Shore Road, 120 ft. wide; thence along said dividing line N.18°59'53"E. 1409.84 ft. to a point in a survey line along the shore of Lake St. Clair which point is distant S.18°59'53"W. 15 ft. more or less from the edge of water of said Lake St. Clair; thence along the survey line following the existing shore line of Lake St. Clair, as established in May, 1977, on the following bearings and distances: S.83°54'19"E. 210.27 ft. and S.57°52'39"E. 72.87 ft. and S.75°17'59"E. 188.85 ft. and S.85°07'39"E. 176.56 ft. and S.41°23'59"E. 342.07 ft. and S.58°10'59"E. 529.47 ft. and S.59°29'20"E. 82.46 ft. and S.8°11'23"E. 118.78 ft. and S.42°33'44"W. 67.36 ft. and S.87°42'14"W. 79.28 ft. and N.47°04'00"W. 84.54 ft. and N.45°56'08"W. 77.35 ft. and N.63°17'45"W. 134.78 ft. and N.73°16'16"W. 113.07 ft. and N.53°49'27"W. 155.95 ft. and N.59°03'37"W. 101.41 ft. and N.44°59'55"W. 94.90 ft. and N.32°46'16"W. 173.64 ft. and N.28°23'11"W. 129.99 ft. and N.47°47'11"W. 118.44 ft. and N.86°16'16"W. 226.26 ft. and S.52°53'39"W. 55.58 ft. and S.40°26'57"W. 84.58 ft. and S.6°25'52"E. 111.99 ft. and S.1°33'04"W. 46.89 ft. and S.22°33'44"E. 84.88 ft. and S.42°01'30"E. 81.76 ft. and S.54°29'19"E. 147.00 ft. and S.85°12'59"E. 92.17 ft. and S.51°04'19"E. 181.28 ft. and S.44°46'59"E. 466.46 ft. and S.57°44'59"E. 246.49 ft. and S.86°46'59"E. 146.37 ft. and S.80°23'57"E. 68.29 ft. and S.57°16'34"E. 96.90 ft. and S.65°45'00"E. 161.27 ft. and S.17°45'04"E. 117.31 ft. and S.2°58'22"W. 163.71 ft. and S.24°48'10"E. 127.42 ft. and S.42°34'38"E. 79.67 ft. and S.15°11'02"E. 83.65 ft. and S.55°45'35"W. 106.40 ft. and N.72°58'13"W. 90.24 ft. and S.52°57'21"W. 144.39 ft. and S.28°25'51"W. 95.27 ft. and S.44°56'16"W. 14.74 ft. to the last point on said survey line which is distant N.70°52'10"W. 10 ft; more or less, from the waters edge of Lake St. Clair; thence N.70°52'10"W. 1099.19 ft. to a point in the N'y line of said Lake Shore Road; thence along said N'y line of Lake Shore Road on a curve to the left, having a radius of 531.93 ft., an arc distance of 273.90 ft., central angle of 29°30'10", chord bearing and distance of N.54°54'55"W. 270.88 ft.; thence following the N'y line of said Lake Shore Road on a line tangent to the last described curve, N.69°40'00"W. 392.69 ft.; thence still continuing along said N'y street line on a curve to the right, having a radius of 1379.99 ft., an arc distance of 159.62 ft. central angle of 6°37'38", chord bearing and distance of N.66°21'11"W. 159.53 ft. to the point of beginning, containing 50,321.25 more or less acres of land and including all the land between said survey line and

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INCORPORATED

(Con't. Parcel A)

edge of water of Lake St. Clair and including all the Riparian Rights in Lake St. Clair from the edge of water to the U. S. Harbor line and also subject to easements of record.

Parcel "B" - Description of Parcel in City of St. Clair Shores
Northerly of Lake Shore Road

All that part of Private Claim 624 lying West of a dividing line between the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores and the City of St. Clair Shores and lying N'y of Lake Shore Road and extending to the shore line of Lake St. Clair, being known also as Part of Lot 13 of Assessor's Plat No. 7 as recorded in Liber 14 of Plats, Pages 36, 37 & 38, Macomb County Records, all in the City of St. Clair Shores, Macomb County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point in the line dividing the City of St. Clair Shores and Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, said point being distant, N.18°59'53"E. 155.16 ft. along said line from its intersection with the N'y line of Lake Shore Road, 120 ft. wide; thence N.15°04'00"W. 824.09 ft.; thence N.30°39'16"W. 219.75 ft.; thence N.37°30'00"E. 651.22 ft. to a point in a survey line along the shore of Lake St. Clair which point is distant S.77°31'39"W. 90 ft.; more or less, from the edge of water of said Lake St. Clair; thence along said survey line following the existing shore line (as established in May 1977) S.37°45'39"E. 179.35 ft. and S.52°48'39"W. 286.75 ft. to a point distant S.18°59'53"W. 15 ft., more or less, from the edge of water of said Lake St. Clair; thence along the dividing line between the City of St. Clair Shores and Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, S.18°59'53"W. 1254.68 ft. to the point of beginning, containing 12.003 more or less acres of land and including all the land between said survey line and edge of water of Lake St. Clair, and including all the Riparian Rights in Lake St. Clair from the water's edge to the U. S. Harbor line and also subject to all easements of record.

Parcel "C" - Description of Parcel in Village of Grosse Pointe
Shores S'y and W'y of Lake Shore Road

All that part of Private Claims 544 and 222 lying East of the dividing line between the City of St. Clair Shores and Village of Grosse Pointe Shores and lying S'y and W'y of Lake Shore Road, all in the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores (formerly Lake Twp.), Macomb County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at the intersection of the dividing line between the City of St. Clair Shores and Village of Grosse Pointe Shores with the S'y line of Lake Shore Road, 120 ft. wide; thence along the S'y line of said Lake Shore Road, on a curve to the left, having a radius of 1499.99 ft., an arc distance of 156.72 ft., central angle of 5°59'10", chord bearing and distance S.66°40'00"E. 156.65 ft.; thence continuing along said S'y line of Lake Shore Road on a line tangent to the last described curve, S.69°40'00"E. 392.69 ft. to point of curve;

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INCORPORATED

(Con't. Parcel C)

thence on a curve to the right, having a radius of 411.93 ft., an arc distance of 618.06 ft., central angle of $85^{\circ}58'00''$, chord bearing and distance of $S.26^{\circ}41'00''E.$ 561.70 ft.; thence continuing along the W'ly line of said Lake Shore Road, on a line tangent to the last described curve, $S.16^{\circ}18'00''W.$ 3.10 ft.; thence $N.71^{\circ}01'49''W.$ 250.00 ft.; thence $S.16^{\circ}18'00''W.$ 200.00 ft.; thence $S.71^{\circ}01'49''E.$ 250.00 ft.; thence along the W'ly line of said Lake Shore Road, $S.16^{\circ}18'00''W.$ 30.00 ft.; thence along the N'ly line of South 122 ft. of said P.C. 222, which line is also the N'ly line of Edward J. Russell's Subdivision as recorded in Liber 35 of Plats, Page 22, Macomb Co. Records, $N.71^{\circ}01'49''W.$ 961.63 ft.; thence along the dividing line between the City of St. Clair Shores and Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, $N.18^{\circ}59'53''E.$ 646.74 ft. to the point of beginning, containing 11.79357 acres of land and subject to easements of record.

Parcel "D" - Description of Parcel in the City of St. Clair Shores
lying Southerly of Lake Shore Road

All that part of Private Claims 544 and 222 lying West of a line dividing the City of St. Clair Shores and Village of Grosse Pointe Shores and S'ly of Lake Shore Road, being also known as part of Lot 12 of Assessor's Plat No. 7, as recorded in Liber 14 of Plats, Pages 36, 37 & 38, Macomb County Records, all in the City of St. Clair Shores, Macomb County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at the intersection of the dividing line between the City of St. Clair Shores and Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, with the S'ly line of Lake Shore Road, 120 ft. wide; thence along said dividing line $S.18^{\circ}59'53''W.$ 646.74 ft.; thence along the N'ly line of the S'ly 122 ft. of said P.C. 222, which line is also the Northerly line of Dewitte Subdivision as recorded in Liber 53 of Plats, pages 37 & 38, Macomb Co. Records. $N.71^{\circ}01'49''W.$ 972.89 ft.; thence $N.66^{\circ}31'15''W.$ 77.84 ft.; thence $N.83^{\circ}43'45''W.$ 27.84 ft.; thence $N.71^{\circ}03'25''W.$ 115.26 ft. to a point in the E'ly line of Lake Shore Acres Subdivision No. 3 as recorded in Liber 41 of Plats, pages 1, 2 and 3, Macomb Co. Records; thence along the E'ly line of said Lake Shore Acres Subdivision No. 3, $N.17^{\circ}16'34''E.$ 1.06 ft. to the S.E. corner of Lake Shore Acres Subdivision No. 2, as recorded in Liber 35 of Plats, pages 35 and 36, Macomb Co. Records; thence along the E'ly line of said Lake Shore Acres Subdivision No. 2 on the following courses and distances: $N.35^{\circ}29'04''E.$ 75.00 ft. and $N.50^{\circ}18'43''E.$ 140.00 ft. and $N.72^{\circ}05'53''E.$ 66.97 ft. and $N.33^{\circ}14'05''W.$ 25.01 ft. to the S.E. corner of Lake Shore Acres Subdivision as recorded in Liber 33 of Plats, pages 11 and 12, Macomb Co. Records; thence along the E'ly line of said Lake Shore Acres Subdivision, on the following courses and distances; $N.56^{\circ}45'55''E.$ 254.26 ft., and $S.69^{\circ}07'34''E.$ 375.30 ft. and $N.51^{\circ}36'29''E.$ 244.36 ft., and $N.38^{\circ}09'51''E.$ 79.76 ft. to the N.E. corner of said Lake Shore Acres Subdivision; thence along the S'ly line of said Lake Shore Road, $S.59^{\circ}53'00''E.$ 283.63 ft.; thence continuing along the S'ly line of said Lake Shore Road on a curve to the left, having a Radius of 1499.99ft.,

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INCORPORATED

(Con't. Parcel D)

an arc distance of 99.41 ft., central angle of $3^{\circ}47'50''$, chord bearing and distance of $S.61^{\circ}46'55''E.$ 99.39 ft. to the point of beginning, containing a total of 13.36427 acres of land and subject to an easement for the relocated Milk River, 140 ft. wide, as shown on the above mentioned recorded Plats and as described in instrument for the Release of Right of Way for the relocated Milk River and also subject to any other easement of Record.

Do Not Film

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JUN 14 1979 JUL 24 1979

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

AND/OR COMMON

Gaukler Point

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Lakeshore Drive

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Grosse Pointe Shores

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

St. Clair Shores

__ VICINITY OF

12

STATE

Michigan

CODE

026

COUNTY

Macomb

CODE

099

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: confer-
ence center

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, a Michigan non-profit corporation.

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Lakeshore Drive

CITY, TOWN

Grosse Pointe Shores

STATE

Michigan 48236

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Macomb County Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Cass & Gratiot Streets (P.O.Box 607)

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Clemens

STATE

Michigan 48043

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Michigan State Survey Data

DATE

1977

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Michigan History Division - Department of State

CITY, TOWN

Lansing

STATE

Michigan 48918

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

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	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

8 SIGNIFICANCE

MAJOR HISTORICAL REFERENCES

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA...

DATE

STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICER

Property ^{House} Ford, Edsel and Eleanor, Estate (Lakeria)

State Mich. (Macomb) Working Number 6.14.79.1450

79001164

TECHNICAL

Photos 13+2
Maps 1

level? ✓

CONTROL

6.14.79

An outstanding (longish) nomination for a nationally significant property. Its myriad associations go beyond the areas checked to those of commerce, community planning, industry, social/humanitarian, transportation, & perhaps pre-historic archeology. Ms. Elstein obviously invested much TLC in preparation of nomination, but she could have looked beyond house itself to historical aspects of Edsel's career at helm of Ford Motors in inter-war years. One question: what is area to south of Lake Shore Rd.?

HISTORIAN

CALL / ACCEPT
7-19-79

Joe Tomner

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Ford Estate is a complex with outstanding architectural significance as an example of the domestic architecture designed by Albert Kahn, based upon his and Ford's study of the Cotswold houses of Worcestershire, England. Main residence, landscaped grounds (by Jens Jensen) and typical support structures of a 1920s upper class estate are intact, preserved and

ARCHEOLOGIST

have ambience of an English country manor. Much of building material came from England. Original interiors are intact, reflecting design of the 1920s (interior design firm of Irving Casson) plus 3 Art Deco rooms remodeled in 1935 by Walter Dorwin Teague, industrial designer who worked with Kahn on Ford Motor Co. bldgs. Call. see phone report.

Saye
7-19-79

Accept.

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept.
Saye 7-19-79

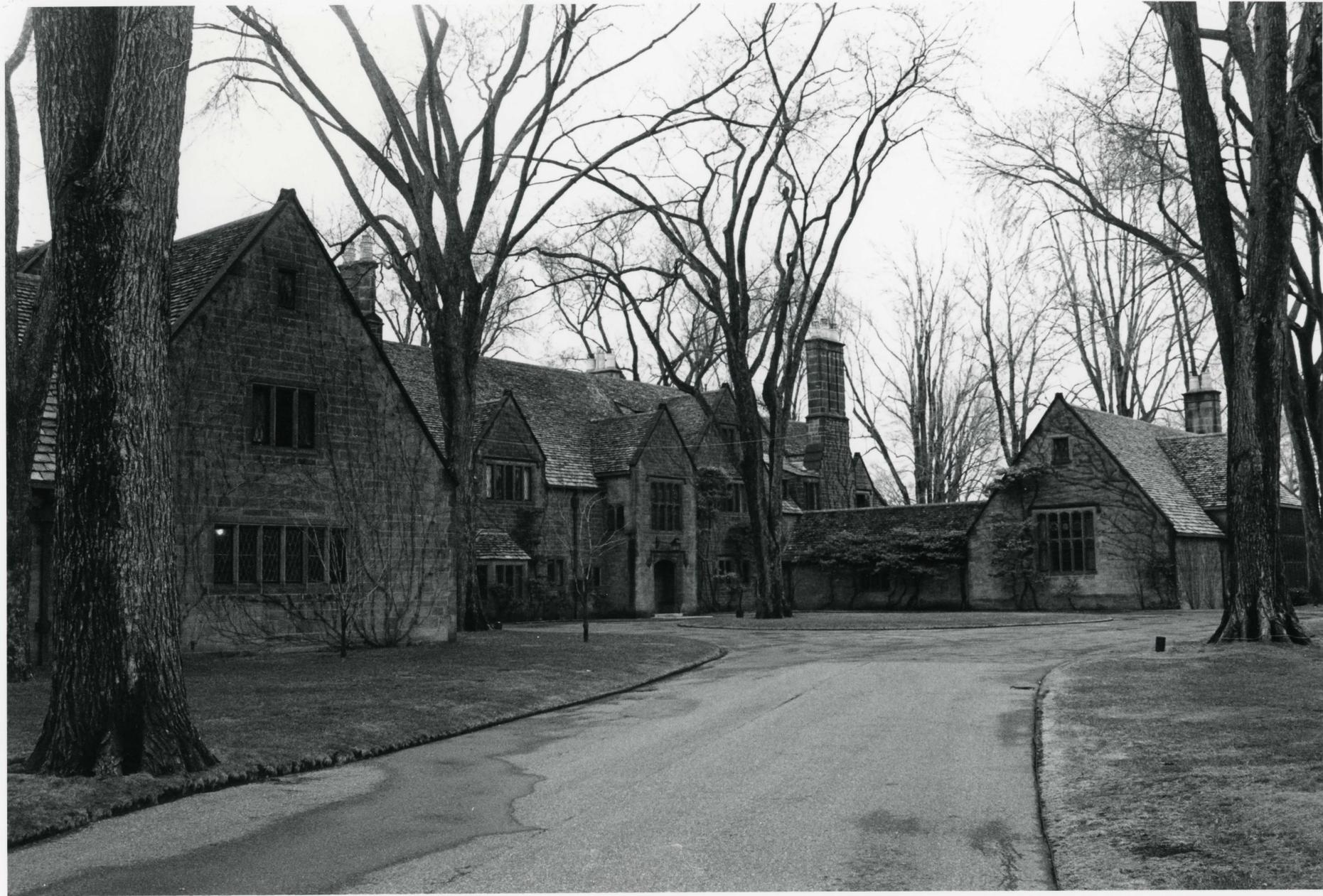
BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 9-4-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered JUL 24 1979



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.

3. Rochelle S. Elstein

4. March 30, 1979 ^{DOE} JUL 24 1979

5. Michigan History Division

6. Facade of house (looking
southeast)

7. Two-A

JUN 14 1979

10/15



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Macomb Co.

2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.

3. Rochelle S. Elstein

4. March 30, 1979

5. Michigan History Division

6. House: lake facade (looking
west)

7. Two-B

JUN 14 1979

JOE
JUL 24 1979

208 15



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House
Macomb Co.
2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.
3. Rochelle S. Elstein
4. March 30, 1979
5. Michigan History Division
6. Gate Lodge (looking north)
7. One

JUL 24 1979
DOE

JUN 14 1979 3 of 15



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House
Macomb Co.
2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.
3. Rochelle S. Elstein
4. March 30, 1979 ^{DOE} JUL 24 1979
5. Michigan History Division
6. View across pond to lake
(looking east)
7. Thirteen JUN 14 1979

40815



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Macomb Co.

2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.

3. Rochelle S. Elstein

DOE

4. March 30, 1979 *JUL 24 1979*

5. Michigan HIstory Division

6. House seen across meadow
(looking southeast)

7. Two-C

JUN 14 1979

5 of 15



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Macomb Co.

2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.

3. Rochelle S. Elstein

4. March 30, 1979

5. Michigan History Division

6. Power house (looking
DOE west)

JUL 24 1979

7. Seven

JUN 14 1979

60815



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Maccomb Co.

2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.

3. Rochelle S. Elstein

4. March 30, 1979

5. Michigan History Division

6. Play house (looking
northeast)

7. Five

JUL 24 1979
DOE

JUN 14 1979

70815



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Macomb Co.
2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.

3. Rochelle S. Elstein

4. March 30, 1979 *JUL 24 1979* *DOE*

5. Michigan History Division

6. Recreation House (looking
southwest)

7. Four

JUN 14 1979 *80815*



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House
Macomb Co.
2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.
3. Rochelle S. Elstein *DOE*
4. March 30, 1979 *JUL 24 1979*
5. Michigan History Division
6. Swimming pool (looking east)
7. Three

JUN 14 1979

9 of 15



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Macomb Co.

2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.

3. Unknown

*DOE
JUL 24 1979*

4. 1976

5. Michigan History Division

6. Library (looking southwest)

7. Two-D

100815 JUN 14 1979



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Macomb Co.

2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.

3. Unknown

DOE

JUL 24 1979

4. 1976

5. Michigan History Division

6. Drawing room (looking north-
west)

7. Two-E

11 of 15

JUN 14 1979



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Macomb Co.
2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.

3. Unknown

DOE

JUL 24 1979

4. 1976

5. Michigan History Division

6. Gallery (looking northwest)

7. Two-F

12 of 15 JUN 14 1979



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Macomb Co.

2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.

3. Unknown

4. 1978

JUL 24 1979
DOE

5. Michigan History Division

6. Music Room (looking north
east)

7. Two-G

JUN 14 1979

13 of 15



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House
Macomb Co.
2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.
3. Rochelle S. Elstein
4. April, 1979
5. Michigan History Division
6. Mrs. Ford's Bedroom
(looking south)
7. Two-I

JUL 24 1979
DOE

JUN 27 1979

14 of 15



1. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Macomb Co.

2. Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.

3. Rochelle S. Elstein

DOE

4. April, 1979

JUL 24 1979

5. Michigan History Division

6. Boys' Bedroom (looking
southeast)

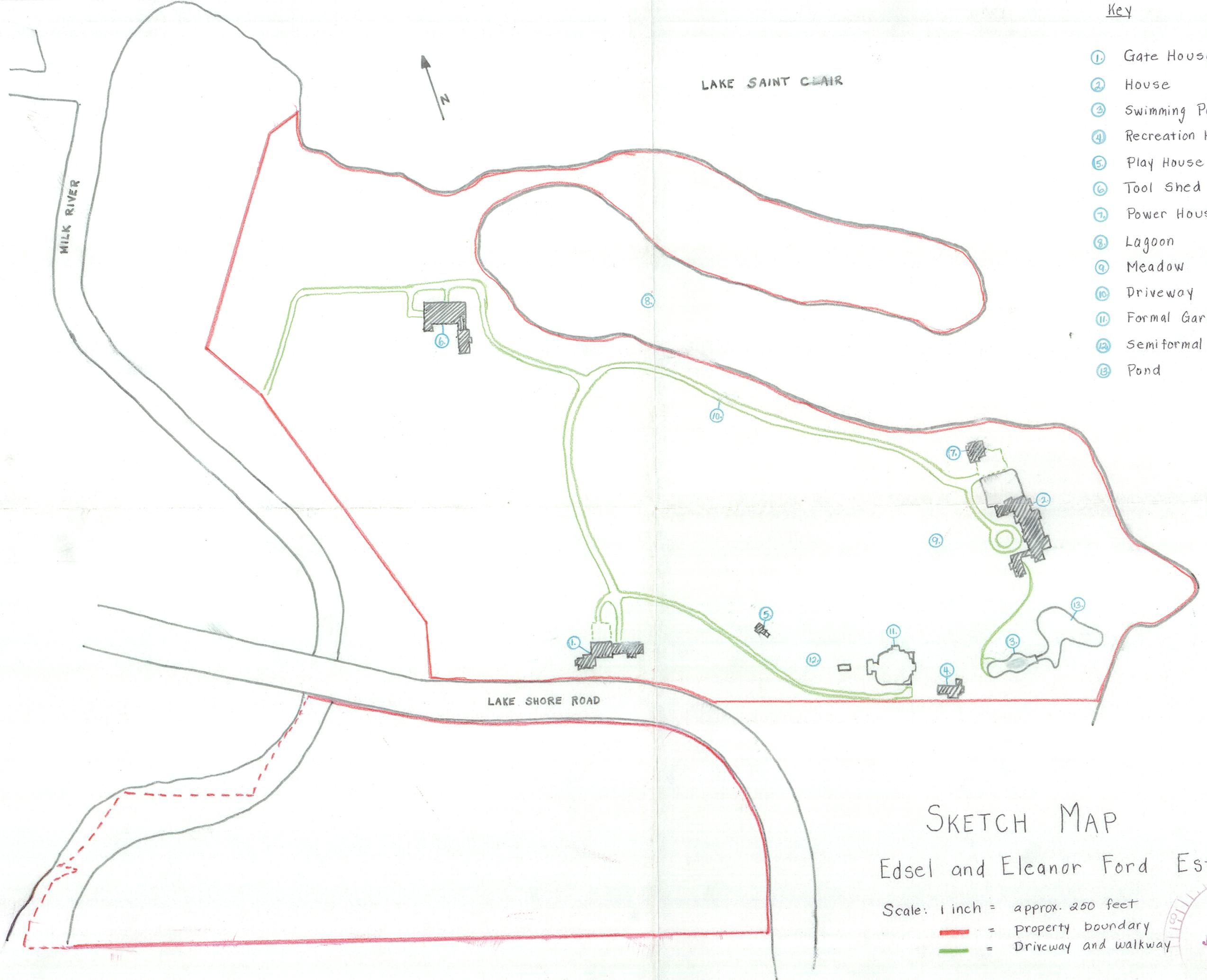
7. Two-H

JUN 27 1979

15 of 15

Key

- ① Gate House
- ② House
- ③ Swimming Pool
- ④ Recreation House
- ⑤ Play House
- ⑥ Tool Shed
- ⑦ Power House
- ⑧ Lagoon
- ⑨ Meadow
- ⑩ Driveway
- ⑪ Formal Garden
- ⑫ Semiformal Garden
- ⑬ Pond



SKETCH MAP

Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate

Scale: 1 inch = approx. 250 feet

- = property boundary
- = Driveway and walkway





SKETCH MAP

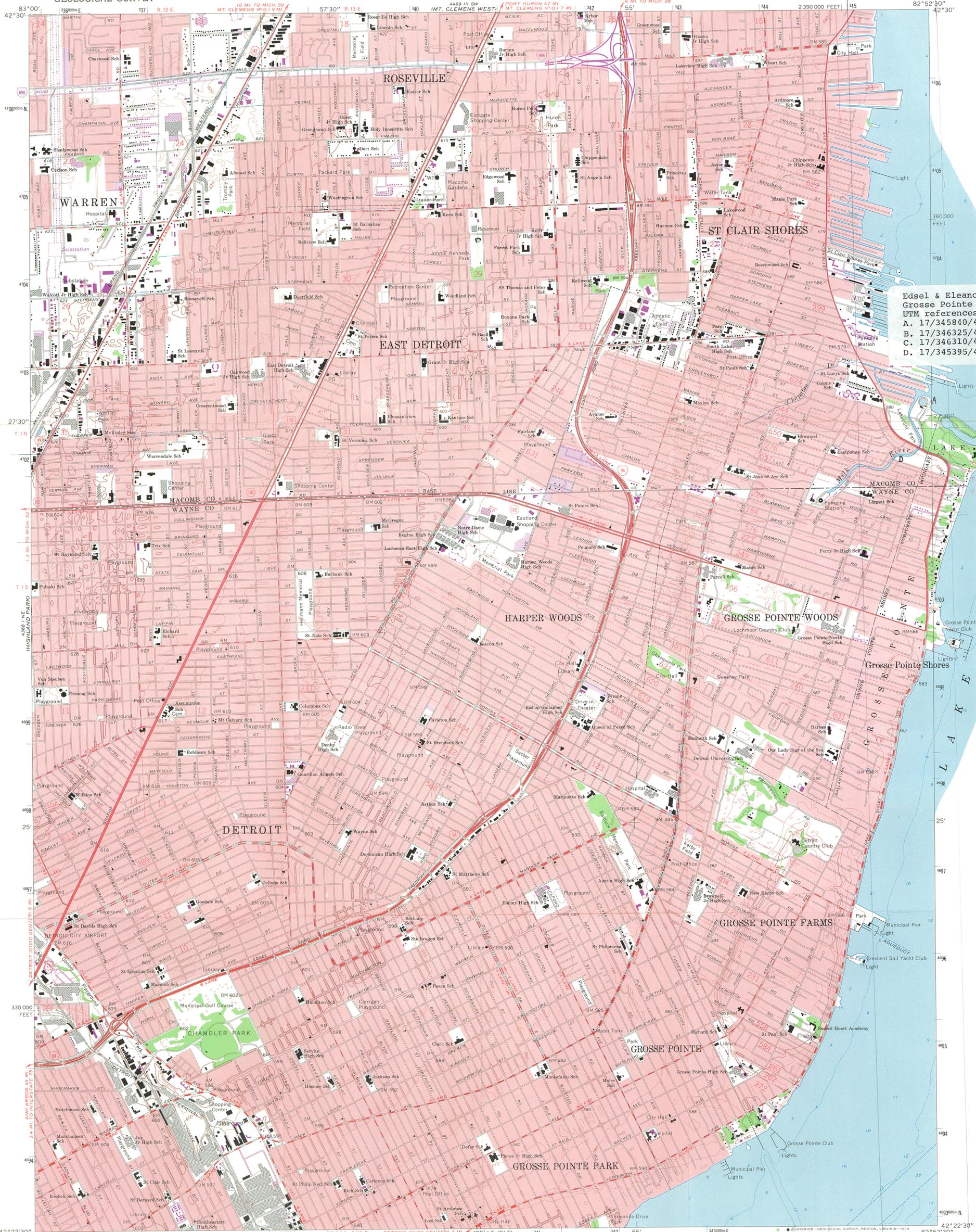
Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate

Scale: 1 inch = approx. 250 feet

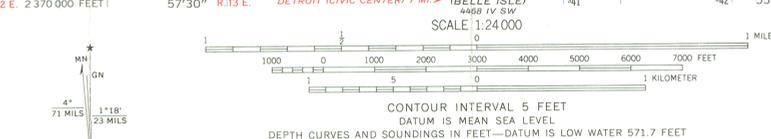
— = Driveway and walkway
 — = Property boundary

- ⑤ Pond
- ⑬ Semi-formal garden
- ⑪ Formal garden
- ⑫ Driveway
- ⑬ Meadow
- ⑰ Radio

REGISTER NATIONAL RECEIVED JUN 14 1974



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Michigan agencies
Control by USGS, USC&GS, U. S. Lake Survey, and City of Detroit
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by plane-table surveys 1938-39. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U. S. Lake Survey Chart 42 (1969). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system, south zone
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS LOW WATER 571.7 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.
N4222.5—W8252.5/7.5
1968
PHOTOREVISED 1973
AMS 4468 IV NW—SERIES V862

RECEIVED
JUN 14 1979
NATIONAL REGISTER



June 7, 1979



MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION

ADMINISTRATION, PUBLICATIONS,
RESEARCH, AND HISTORIC SITES
208 N. Capitol Avenue

STATE ARCHIVES
3405 N. Logan Street

STATE MUSEUM
505 N. Washington Avenue

Mr. Charles Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Enclosed for your review is the National Register nomination for the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate, Grosse Point Shores/St. Clair Shores, Macomb County, prepared by the Michigan History Division of the Michigan Department of State.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

Martha M. Bigelow
Director, Michigan History Division
and
State Historic Preservation Officer

MMB/KBE:tj
Enc.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MICHIGAN

Date Entered JUL 24 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ford, Edsel and Eleanor, House	St. Clair Shores Macomb County

Also Notified

Honorable Donald W. Riegle, Jr.

Honorable Carl Levin
Honorable David E. Bonior

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Martha Bigelow
Director
Michigan History Division
Department of State
Lansing, Michigan 48918

NR Byers/bjr 7/27/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
NOV 20 1979
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED *4/5/79 2/24/79*
Division nomin. approved 11/27/79

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

AND/OR COMMON

Gaukler Point

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Lakeshore Drive

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Grosse Pointe Shores
St. Clair Shores

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12

STATE

Michigan

CODE

026

COUNTY

Macomb

CODE

099

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: conference center

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, a Michigan non-profit corporation

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Lakeshore Drive

CITY, TOWN

Grosse Pointe Shores

VICINITY OF

STATE

Michigan

48236

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Macomb County Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Cass & Gratiot Streets (P.O. Box 607)

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Clemens

STATE

Michigan

48043

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Michigan State Survey Data

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Michigan History Division, Department of State

CITY, TOWN

Lansing

STATE

Michigan

48918

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House encompasses 87.5 acres and includes the following structures:

Gate House	Play House
House	Tool Shed
Swimming Pool	Power House
Recreation House	

The Ford estate occupies the largest and most beautifully-situated homesite in the wealthiest and most exclusive section of Grosse Pointe that stretches along the shore of Lake St. Clair, northeast of industrial Detroit. Gaukler Point was endowed by nature with a commanding view of the water and the grounds were enhanced by the subtle artistry of landscape architect Jens Jensen who skillfully created a lagoon (#8) inlet for boating enthusiast Edsel Ford and framed the lake view with handsome plantings. A large meadow (#9) rimmed with stately trees separates the house from the noise and traffic of Lakeshore Drive and a curving driveway (#10) leads from the forbidding Gate House (#1) around the meadow's periphery, along the lake, and to the rambling Cotswold house (#2) at the end of the drive. The ambience thus created is of an English country manor.

Southwest of the house are formal gardens (#11) surrounded by low walls and steps which lead to concentric circles of low plantings of ground cover, roses, and seasonal flowers, interspersed with gravel walks. In the center is a square pool with four stone frog fountains and on the south side, there is a fountain set into a wall with a spouting dolphin and lead basin below. Beyond the garden is a rectangular pool. A second, less formal garden (#12) of clipped hedges and a semi-circle of evergreens is west of the flower garden and rectangular stone pool and next to a copse of fruit trees and ground cover.

South of the house is the recreation area. An L-shaped Recreation House (#4), built, like the main house, of stone with stone shingled roof, contains a handball court, a large enclosed lounge with tudor-arched fireplace for "camp cooking," showers and dressing rooms. It is a short walk to the 132 foot by 40 foot swimming pool (#3) fed by cast-lead animal fountains. The pool, with water warmed by one of the three power house boilers, drains into the adjacent pond (#13) and then into Lake St. Clair. The pool-pond complex is set in a lovely birch grove.

Continuing along the southern periphery of the estate, the next building is a charming brick and stucco Play House (#5) with tudor half-timbered gable ends containing panels illustrating popular nursery rhymes. The interior is divided into three rooms: a bedroom, a kitchen complete with built-in refrigerator, and a living room with Georgian pine panelling, corner cupboards and bay windows and a working fireplace. The floors are pegged oak, and six foot ceilings and reduced scale are ideal for making a small child feel like mistress of her house.

(Continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1927-30

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Albert Kahn - Architect
Albert A. Albrecht - Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House is a very significant property, for it brings together three of the most important and influential people who shaped twentieth century Detroit: Albert Kahn, the innovative and prolific architect; Edsel Ford, son of the founder and himself President of the Ford Motor Company; and Eleanor Clay Ford, a niece of retailing pioneer, Joseph Lothian Hudson, and one of Detroit's cultural and social leaders. The house is a superb example of the predilection for English architecture of the early automotive tycoons and reflects the sensibility and taste of Mr. and Mrs. Ford for great art and noble architecture. "Edsel Ford cares for the beautiful, knows what is art and what is not . . . [Edsel and Eleanor's] home on Lakeshore Drive . . . reflects their sense of combining the useful with the beautiful."¹ It indicates the extent to which they were educated by leading art scholars to appreciate and acquire superb works of art and to choose an architect and interior designers who could provide an appropriate setting for their paintings, their elegant life style and their growing family. In addition, the Ford Estate is one of the most notable works of the great landscape architect Jens Jensen and one of the few remaining unaltered examples of his designs in Michigan. The Ford House is a monument to private wealth, educated taste, and a sense of public responsibility which resulted in its preservation and the establishment of an endowment to maintain the property and make it available to cultural, philanthropic, and educational groups.

Edsel Bryant Ford, born November 6, 1893, was the only child of Clara Bryant and Henry Ford, and, from the beginning, was trained by his father to assume leadership of the company. Educated in public schools and the Detroit University School, he did not go on to college, as his mother had hoped, but began his apprenticeship at the Ford Motor Company, serving as his father's secretary beginning in 1912, and as the company secretary. Promoted to vice-president after his marriage, in 1919 he was named president and later president and treasurer. Despite his corporate responsibilities, he maintained an active interest in the arts. He took painting lessons from Detroit artist, John Carroll, and attended weekly classes at the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts. In the 1920s, Detroit Institute of Arts Director William Valentiner accompanied Eleanor and Edsel to Europe where they began to collect art and, during this period, the Fords and Eleanor's sister Josephine and her husband, Ernest Kanzler, regularly attended Detroit Institute of Arts seminars on art history. Edsel served for two decades on the Detroit Arts Commission and Eleanor assumed his role after his death, serving with distinction for twenty years. They contributed substantially to the Detroit Institute of Arts which named a wing in their memory posthumously, for, with characteristic modesty, Mrs. Ford eschewed the honor during her lifetime. Mr. Ford also served on the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Modern

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Detroit Free Press (March 27, 1944).
 Detroit Free Press (December 1, 1978).
 Detroit News (March 29, 1944).
 Ferry, W. Hawkins, The Buildings of Detroit, (Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1968).
 Ford, Eleanor Clay, "Last Will and Testament" Mount Clemens, Michigan, Macomb County Probate Court, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 87.48

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1, 7 | 3 | 4, 5 | 8 | 4, 0 | 4 | 7, 0 | 2 | 3, 5 | 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | 1, 7 | 3 | 4, 6 | 3 | 1, 0 | 4 | 7, 0 | 1 | 5, 3 | 0 |

B | 1, 7 | 3 | 4, 6 | 3 | 2, 5 | 4 | 7, 0 | 1 | 9, 2 | 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | 1, 7 | 3 | 4, 5 | 3 | 9, 5 | 4 | 7, 0 | 1 | 6, 6 | 0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached Mason L. Brown & Son for legal description and sketch map for boundaries.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rochelle S. Elstein, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION

Michigan History Division, Department of State

DATE

May 4, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

208 N. Capitol

TELEPHONE

(517) 373-0510

CITY OR TOWN

Lansing

STATE

Michigan 48918

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Maura M. Bigelow 11/7/79

TITLE

Director, Michigan History Division

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Caree O'Sullivan

DATE

11-27-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Emma Jane Saxe

DATE

11-26-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Coordinator

(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICEFOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 20 1979
DATE ENTERED**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Continuing around the curving path to where it intersects with the main drive, one again comes upon the Gate Lodge, a building of smooth ashlar with battlemented tower and a timber ceilinged arch spanning the driveway. The Gate House contains the residence of the chief-of-staff, the chauffeur's apartment, and a third staff apartment on the second floor, reached by an exterior staircase. There is a multi-car garage with a turntable and a paved open parking area. The fortress-like architecture of the Gate House successfully connotes its function of closely monitoring visitors to the property. In contrast to the open, informal, and welcoming configuration of the residence, the Gate House, with its heavy wooden gates, and the presence of a security man in the small office under the arch all contributes to an exclusive mien.

Twelve hundred feet north of the entrance is the Tool Shed (#6), greenhouse, and landscape equipment storage buildings, adjacent to a large vegetable garden. The service buildings are in brick and change in material, plus their simple rectangular shape, indicates their functional character. More massive and more in keeping with the architecture of the house is the Power House (#7) which is really a misnomer. Unlike Henry Ford's Fairlane where the power plant originally generated electricity for the estate, this Power House simply houses the heating, cooling, and water treatment equipment for the property. Two hundred feet north of the residence and separated from the service wing by a stone parking area, it is connected to the house by an underground tunnel. The double gable Power House is built of sandstone with split stone roof and only the absence of windows and the massive chimneys reveal its function. In contrast to the rustic exterior, the interior is a vision of modern efficiency with white glazed brick walls, shiny brass fittings and three huge boilers.

The 60-room mansion (#2C), the centerpiece of the estate, is of rough Briar Hill sandstone with split stone roof softened by occasional clumps of dull green moss. The driveway ends in a circle on the west side and affords a view of a broad, rambling facade with a modest tudor-arched entrance surmounted by a graceful iron lantern. South of the entrance is the gallery with its massive end-wall chimney and large projecting rectangular bay window with leaded glass insets. A cloistered passage connects the gallery to the drawing room and a stone balustrade ties together the two southern wings of the house on the exterior. A small terrace nestles in the space created between the wings and was often canopied and used for parties. On the east side, the house looks out to the lake with a five-arched loggia (#2B) opening on a broad-terrace which affords a splendid view of the trees and the water. The arrangement of the house, a wide, shallow building with

(Continued)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

asymmetrical wings, is quite apparent on the lake side. To one side of the terrace is the library and on the other is the morning room. The architect arrayed many of the family bedrooms and some of the first floor entertainment spaces along the east side to maximize the accessibility to the lake view. At the north end of the house is the service wing with a small and very private yard for the staff.

In addition to the picturesque massing of the facade, exterior interest is created by the subtle gradation in size of the roofing stones which range from "large and shaggy at the eaves to miniscule at the ridges" and by the delicate floral ornament on the downspouts. Large trees and lush foundation plantings serve to soften and anchor the building and the additive character of the various wings and bays, and the asymmetry of the fenestration and chimneys give an informal accretive feeling to what is, in fact, a grand and elegant residence.

A small dark vestibule opens on a 19 foot by 38 foot hall with stone walls and floor and Jacobean plastered ceiling. Directly opposite are wrought iron double doors to the loggia, to the left an oak staircase from Lyvedon Hall, Northants, England, leads to the second floor. The library (#2D), 22 by 33 feet, with English panelling and bookcase walls features a Caen stone fireplace brought from Derne Park (Northants); it has two bays, one accommodating a small desk, the other facing east and providing a view of the lake. West of the library is the drawing room (#2E), 25 by 42 feet, remodeled in the mid-1950s and now containing a red marble bowfront mantel, dark parquet floors and green walls highlighted with touches of gilt. The most spectacular room in the house is the gallery (#2F), measuring 25 by 60 feet, which features linenfold panelling flanking an immense stone-hooded Gothic fireplace, a barrel vaulted ceiling with intricately carved ornament, plank floor, and a floor to ceiling bay window and stone walls. It is connected to the drawing room by a cloistered passage.

North of the central hall are a morning room and dining room with Georgian knotty pine panelling from the Clock House (Upminster, England) and white pine mantels carved in the style of Grinling Gibbons. The dining room mantel and door lintel rest on wooden caryatids. A small study with coffered panelling and plank floor and a sleek Art Deco music room (#2G) with mirrored tile walls and built-in cabinet niche, indirect lighting and lacewood banquettes and mantel, complete the public rooms of the first floor.

Art Deco is the style of two of the upstairs bedroom suites (#2H) and both feature light wood furnishings, brass tubular lighting, supplemented by simple, modern lamps, built-in headboards and bookcases, and brass window mullions and moldings.

(Continued)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED NOV 20 1979
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

The remaining bedrooms are much more traditional, for example, Josephine Ford's room dominated by a four-poster bed with flowered chintz canopy.

The most opulent is the master bedroom suite; one room is a boudoir in ivory and pink with leafy carved moldings and a pinky-brown marble fireplace. At the south end of the long second story hall is the master bedroom (#21) with small wrought iron balcony looking out over the gallery and its small yard, known as the "apple orchard" for the trees which once grew there, and offering a sweeping view toward the swimming pool. Mrs. Ford's dressing room with built-in closets and cabinets with floral motifs painted on the doors and drawers, is connected to the bedroom by a bathroom featuring gold faucets and built-in floor scales. Additional clothing storage is provided by cedar closets in the attic and cold storage for furs in the basement.

The house is furnished throughout with carefully chosen English antiques and hung with paintings, some, for example Renoir's Cup of Chocolate, originals; others, as in the case of Titian and Gozzoli, reproductions of those donated to the Detroit Institute of Arts. The only room to have been remodeled after Mrs. Ford's death, was the former laundry which has recently been converted into the office of the Executive Director of the premises.

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Art in New York. The significant role that art played in their lives is reflected in their collection of paintings, which included works of Gozzoli, Titian, Renoir, Cezanne, and Copley, and the prominent place of the Gallery in the design of their house. Edsel was an active sportsman, racing in speedboat regattas, owning several boats, including a 125 foot yacht, and building his homes near the water, notably at Gaukler Point and Seal Harbor, Maine.

Eleanor was also born and educated in Detroit; her father was William Clay, her mother J. L. Hudson's sister, Eliza Hudson Clay. When Eleanor's father died in 1908, Eliza and her two daughters moved into her bachelor brother's home at 63 Boston Boulevard and it was in that house that Eleanor and Edsel married in 1916. A graduate of the Liggett School, Eleanor was interested in music and dance, and taught tap dancing at the Franklin Settlement in 1915, which reflected both her interest in the arts and her commitment to the less fortunate. Eleanor, born in June, 1896, and Edsel grew up near each other, but love bloomed when they renewed acquaintance at Annie Ward Foster's dancing classes. Like Edsel, Eleanor's formal education ended with high school but she continued to read widely and her knowledge of and interest in all the arts was extensive. Undoubtedly her education in the visual arts was furthered by her dear companion and cousin, famed art collector and museum benefactor, Robert Hudson Tannahill. She served on the Board of the Detroit Symphony and Detroit Institute of Arts and was a founder of the Archives of American Art in 1955. A very private and soft-spoken woman, devoted to her children and tragically widowed at age 47, she nonetheless led the fight against her formidable father-in-law and used her control of 54% of the Ford Motor Company stock to ensure that her son, Henry, would succeed to the company leadership after his father's death in 1943. She died October 19, 1976, at 80 years of age, a much mourned figure on the Detroit cultural and social scene.

Edsel and Eleanor Ford first lived at 439 Iroquois (now 2171 Iroquois) where their sons Henry (1917) and Benson (1919) were born. In 1920 they moved to 7930 Jefferson Avenue, a 25 room limestone mansion built for lumber baron Albert L. Stephens by architect George D. Mason. It featured "triple-arched loggias [which] took advantage of the impressive site overlooking the Detroit River opposite Belle Isle."² "Edsel Ford made extensive changes in the house and had the property beautifully landscaped. It ran down to the river, and he had a swimming pool near the house. The landscaping was done by a Danish landscape architect named Jens Jensen."³ Here, daughter Josephine (1923) and son William Clay (1925) were born, but soon the Ford family would join the exodus of wealthy Detroiters to the open country of Grosse Pointe. Between 1911 and 1913, Henry Ford purchased the land known as Gaukler's Point, fifteen miles northeast of downtown Detroit, from Josephine Gaukler and the Trombly family, but when he built his own estate, Fairlane, it was near

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his boyhood home. When his son began to contemplate building a new and more secluded residence, the 87 acre site with its 3000 foot frontage on Lake St. Clair afforded a splendid pristine lakefront location, an ideal spot for a boating enthusiast, and an opportunity to guarantee privacy and security for a young family whose wealth and prominence made them apprehensive about kidnapers and extortionists, curious citizens and members of the press.

The Grosse Pointe area was first settled by Europeans around 1750, fifty years after the founding of Fort Pontchartrain by the French. Like the Detroit riverfront, the lakeshore area was divided into long narrow "ribbon farms" with houses built near the water and farm land extending as much as a mile back. Captain Alexander Grant bought a 640 acre farm on the present site of Grosse Pointe Farms and his 280 foot hewn-log house was the gathering place for British officers and Detroit society. After the British left Michigan following the War of 1812, Grosse Pointe was farm and wilderness but between 1840 and 1910, many wealthy Detroiters built summer homes along the lake. When the motorcar made Grosse Pointe accessible to businessmen, some built year-around homes in the area. Reflecting the same settlement pattern as Detroit, the peninsula known as Gaukler Point was originally Pointe a Guinole, as the French called it. Later it was bought by the Richard Trombley family and called Tremble Point or Milk River Point; in 1876 Jacob Gaukler owned the 400 acre site known as Gaukler Point. Ample evidence attested to its popularity as a Chippewa and Huron Indian campground: in 1927, as excavation was beginning for the Ford house, a silver Indian bracelet was dug up and preserved in Edsel Ford's collection. As the Detroit News noted in a romantic reverie: "The new [Ford] home [necessitating] the labor of 200 men is fast changing the landscape where once stood a village of Indian tents."⁴ The Village of Grosse Pointe Shores was incorporated in 1911 but Gaukler Point was not readily accessible until the new Lakeshore Drive was extended to it from Grosse Pointe Farms in 1930-1931.

The association of Albert Kahn and the Ford family dates back to 1909 when Henry Ford hired the architect, fresh from his successes with the Packard Motor Car Company and Burroughs Adding Machine Company buildings. In response to the needs of a new and unprecedented manufacturing system, Albert Kahn, who never "felt that designing a factory was beneath his dignity,"⁵ turned his attention to solving the problems of the moving assembly line. "To an extraordinary degree the necessary imagination, organizational ability, scientific knowledge, and understating of functional and human needs were combined in the person of Albert Kahn."⁶ But when it came to domestic building, Kahn was much more historical than his factory buildings would suggest and he wrote: "In architecture to be worthy of a title there must ever be dignity and good taste."⁷ In 1915 he designed the Grosse Pointe Shores Village Hall for which he turned to English models where he "rediscovered the charm and livability of traditional English dwelling."⁷ In the first

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decade of the century, he had designed several Grosse Pointe houses, for Charles Swift, Horace Dodge, and Henry Joy, for example, but by the 1920s, the volume of industrial work left him little time for domestic commissions. It is a measure of Edsel Ford's importance as a client that Kahn not only designed the house himself but spent much time in research on the English precedents. By 1920, "the taste of his clients and his own reverence for the past let him increasingly toward more traditional forms in his non-industrial work."⁸

That which epitomized dignity and good taste in domestic architecture for the Fords were the buildings of the English countryside, particularly that of the Cotswold country.

When Mr. and Mrs. Ford decided to build their Lake Shore residence they proceeded to carry out two basic ideas. They wanted a modest and picturesque home--not a palace or fortress--and they wanted its architecture to reproduce faithfully the beautiful and practical Cotswold houses of Worcestershire, England.

The Fords made many visits to the Cotswold District; they engaged in considerable research on the history and construction of Cotswold houses; and then secured the services of Albert Kahn, architect, to design and build the home . . .

Mr. Kahn went abroad for further study of the quaint Cotswold structures, and to make sketches and photographs of a myriad of details.

Many of the details were incorporated into the Ford house as were building materials sent from England, notably roofing stones, interior panelling, fireplaces and the great oak staircase in the entry hall. The interior of the house was the responsibility of the New York firm of Irving Casson and Company, who were designers much favored by eastern aristocrats like the Rockefellers whom the Fords knew from their summers at Seal Harbor. According to one architectural historian,¹⁰ the Casson office worked closely with Albert Kahn in choosing building and decorative items from English homes and were in charge of installing them in the Grosse Pointe house. Casson played a major role in the selection of the furnishings and, in fact, was a contractor for the interior of the house, choosing and supervising subcontractors for the decorative work, such as the plaster ceilings done on the premises, as well as overseeing the installation of the imported panelling, fireplaces, and other elements.

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Henry Ford was also very taken with Cotswold architecture as noted by H. F. Morton, Ford Motor Company engineer in England and Henry's travel companion along the backroads of the Cotswold country. Around the time that Edsel's house was being built, his father had Morton purchase and ship to Greenfield Village a modest shepherd's cottage which was reconstructed in Dearborn in 1931. Cotswold motifs were also employed by Kahn in some of his other Grosse Pointe homes, for example, the 1929 mansion of Alvan Macauley also on Lakeshore Drive.

Jens Jensen (1860-1951), one of the country's most important landscape architects, designed and supervised the landscaping of the property. Coming to this country from Denmark at age 24, Jensen started his career in and around Chicago designing parks for various public authorities, later taking on many famous, private clients, among them Henry Ford, for whom he designed the grounds at Fairlane, Dearborn. In this way, Jensen and the Edsel Fords became acquainted. When the Edsel Fords moved into their Jefferson Avenue home, it was Jensen who did the landscaping, and when they decided to build at Gaukler Point, they turned again to Jensen. At Gaukler Point, Jensen dug a channel from the lake into the north side of the property to form what is now the lagoon, and the dirt from the channel Jensen threw to one side to form what is now the peninsula. He brought enormous rocks on flat cars from Lavallo, Wisconsin. He would come from Chicago two or three times a month to supervise the work. The siting of the house, the winding drive, the meadow and the arrangement of trees are all as Jensen designed them.

The Ford family, in 1929, moved into the Gaukler Point house and were quite comfortable and happy in their new home which soon became a Detroit area landmark. In 1930 the house won the First Award in the Residential Class of the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and medals were awarded to architect Albert Kahn and builder Albert A. Albrecht. By 1935 the Fords decided to undertake the remodelling which resulted in the Art Deco bedroom suite and first floor music room. The latter, "a surprising element . . . in an English manor house"¹¹ is a smooth, modern, remarkably advanced gem of a room with built-in furniture in the blond finish so characteristic of the style, with large expanses of glass and indirect lighting. The music room and the two upstairs bedrooms, sitting room, and bath were the work of Walter Dorwin Teague, a pioneer in industrial design who, in his own estimation, ranked with the giants of twentieth century modernism.¹² Teague's collaborations with Kahn and the Ford Motor Company were extensive during the 1930s; he designed the 1935 Ford Motor Company Exhibit in San Diego, and did the interiors for Kahn's Ford Motor Company Pavilion "The City of the Future," at the 1939 New York World's Fair. As the illustrations in his book reveal, the same mirror-tiled walls, built-in banquettes, and blond furniture which he used in the Pavilion's Executive Lounge were repeated in the Edsel Ford House. While Eleanor and Edsel's taste ran more toward French and English antiques, "they were young

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enough to be, on occasion, daringly upbeat. The designs of the music room and the boys' suite reflect the important innovations that the father was at the same time bringing to automotive design."¹³

Edsel Ford died May 26, 1943, at his Grosse Pointe residence. Although he left the residence to his wife, she at first felt it too large for her needs and offered it for sale at \$500,000. It stayed on the market until late 1945; articles in Detroit newspapers underscored the bargain price,¹⁴ but it became obvious that a sale could not be consummated, and there were suggestions that it be converted into a public park. Eventually, Mrs. Ford withdrew the house from the market and decided to continue residing there, which she did until her death in 1976.

In 1955-56, Mrs. Ford had the drawing room remodeled from its original English style to French and she continued to add furniture and objets d'art to her collection. She entertained her family with lavish celebrations, especially at Christmas, and gave parties for her debutante granddaughters as well as elegant dinners for friends. "Eleanor Clay Ford, inspired by her husband and her own innate good taste, had great pride and love for her home, continuously giving it care and affection."¹⁵ In her later years she especially loved a daily walk around the magnificent grounds and it was she, who lived there the longest and loved it best, who provided the most sensitive and cogent statement of its significance:

I have given much thought to the future of my home at Gaukler Point and have consulted with my children and others as to what should be its future. Where once there were many extraordinary residences, mine is the last to remain, for the change in our manner of living, and in our taxes, and in our attitudes have resulted in the demolition of all the others. Elsewhere in our country, and in England and other parts of Europe, ways have been found to preserve such residences for some form of public use, and they remain as witnesses to the past, as part of the history of the area, and as an enrichment in the lives of future generations.

The dwelling itself was built for my husband Edsel and me half a century ago by one of the country's greatest architects, Albert Kahn, in the style of the Cotswold section of England and it contains many beautiful touches not to be found elsewhere in this country and doubtless never to be done again.

I have also taken note of the need in our society of preserving open spaces, of the increase in leisure time and the increased opportunity

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for leisure activities, and of the importance of fostering an interest in our history and traditions.

Moved by these and other considerations, and especially because mine is the last of the many great homes in this area, I have decided to leave my residence along with suitable furnishings, in such manner as to allow the residence to remain and the property to be used for the benefit of the public, and I have also decided to provide an endowment, so that all this may be possible.¹⁶

¹Detroit News, November 6, 1940.

²W. Hawkins Ferry, The Buildings of Detroit (Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1968), p. 223.

³A. J. Lepine, "The Reminiscences of A. J. Lepine," (Dearborn, Ford Motor Company Archives, Oral History Section, July, 1952), p. 71.

⁴Detroit News, March 20, 1927.

⁵Ferry, The Buildings of Detroit, p. 179.

⁶Ferry, The Buildings of Detroit, p. 183.

⁷W. Hawkins Ferry, The Legacy of Albert Kahn, (Detroit, Detroit Institute of Arts, 1970), p. 15

⁸Ferry, The Legacy of Albert Kahn, p. 18-19.

⁹Reaume and Silloway, "The Edsel B. Ford Lake Shore Estate," (Detroit, n.d. ca. 1944), p. 2-3.

¹⁰Telephone conversation with Thomas Holleman of Smith, Hinchman, and Grylls, Detroit, April 23, 1979.

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- 11 Jerome Irving Smith, "The Home of Mrs. Edsel B. Ford," Twelfth Annual Liggett University Show Catalog (Detroit, 1977), p. 77.
- 12 "The modern style is seen crystallized in the work of LeCorbusier, Gropius, Wright: or of Dreyfus, Rhode, Geddes, Teague." Walter Dorwin Teague, Design This Day (New York, Harcourt, Brace, Co., 1940), p. 215.
- 13 Andrew Craig Morrison, "The Home on Gaukler Point," Twelfth Annual Liggett University Show Catalog, (Detroit, 1977), p. 73.
- 14 Detroit Free Press, March 27, 1944.
- 15 Smith, "The Home of Mrs. Edsel B. Ford," p. 77.
- 16 Eleanor Clay Ford, "Last Will and Testament," on file at the Macomb County Probate Court, Mount Clemens, Michigan, p. 3-4.

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Jensen, Jens, "Edsel B. Ford Gaulker Point Plans," U. of M. Architecture Library.

Kahn, Albert, "The Estate of Edsel B. Ford" (Detroit 1926-7), Plans on file at Michigan History Division.

Morrison, Andrew Craig, "The Home on Gaukler Point" Twelfth Annual Liggett University Show Catalog (Detroit, 1977).

Reaume and Silloway Co., "The Edsel B. Ford Lake Shore Estate" (Detroit, ca. 1944).

Smith, Jerome Irving, "The Home of Mrs. Edsel B. Ford" Twelfth Annual Liggett University Show Catalog (Detroit, 1977).

Property *Ford, Edsel and Eleanor, House*

State *MI (Macomb)* Working Number

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos _____

Maps _____

HISTORIAN

Significance of this property remains the same. See first control sheet. 1st paragraph in #8 summarizes significance. Revised form contains information on Jensen who landscaped estate.

*ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
Accept revised form.
Saxe 11-26-79*

Personal information about Ford, not relevant to this nomination, was omitted in revised form.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
Saxe 11-26-79*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered _____

Federal Register Entry _____ Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN • SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING, MICHIGAN

48918

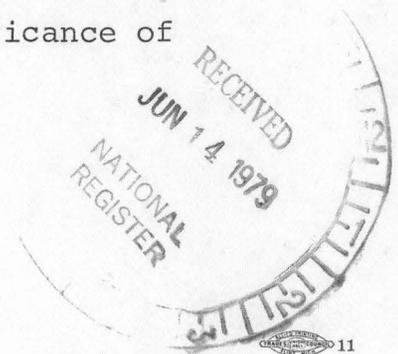
MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 8, 1979
TO: Charles Herrington, Keeper of the National Register
FROM: Rochelle S. Elstein, Michigan HIStory Division-Dept. of State
SUBJECT: Edsel & Eleanor Ford House nomination

We have been requested by the law firm which represents the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House foundation to amend the National Register nomination to conform to the exact legal title of the property and the owner.

Since we have already sent you the forms, we would appreciate it if you could correct your copy as indicated on the enclosed form, or substitute this revised version of page 1 for the one which we sent earlier in the week.

The Review Board determined that the level of significance of the property is national.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN • SECRETARY OF STATE

MEMORANDUM



LANSING, MICHIGAN

48918

DATE: June 20, 1979
TO: Charles Herrington, Acting Keeper of the National Register
FROM: Rochelle S. Elstein, Michigan History Division
SUBJECT: Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores (Macomb), MI.

When the Ford House nomination was mailed to you earlier this month, the two enclosed photographs were inadvertently left out of the package. Please add them to the Ford House National Register Nomination.

6.14



TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: Ford House Nom.

TO/FROM: Rochelle Elstein

DATE: 7-19-79

ADDRESS: Mich SHPO

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER: Saxe

DIVISION: NR

REPORT: Asked why section w/ no structures south of Lakeshore Rd. was included. Reasons are:

1) part of ~~the~~ purchase by Edsel Ford when he added to orig. landholding of Henry's.

2) 87⁺ acres is under the single ownership of the Ford House non-profit corporation

3) - Most justifiable - grounds are part of original estate landscaped by Jens Jensen and are integral part of grounds north of road.

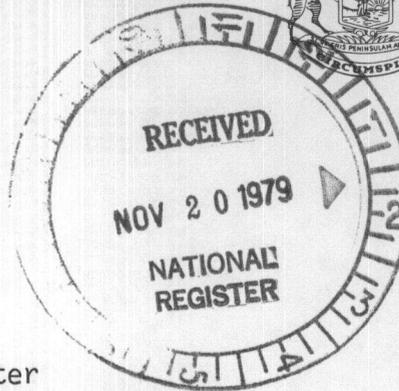
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING
MICHIGAN 48918

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION
ADMINISTRATION, ARCHIVES,
HISTORIC SITES, AND PUBLICATIONS
3423 N. Logan Street
517-373-0510
STATE MUSEUM
505 N. Washington Avenue
517-373-0515



November 8, 1979

Mr. Charles Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Herrington:

The Michigan History Division submits to you revised National Register nomination forms for the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Point Shores, Macomb County, Michigan. May I ask you to replace the original nomination forms which you signed on July 24, 1979, with the enclosed revised forms.

Our office revised the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House nomination forms at the request of the Ford family and the family's attorneys, Bodman, Longley & Dahling of Detroit. The revision corrects a date, pays greater attention to Jens Jensen's role in landscaping the grounds, and contains less detail of Edsel Ford's last illness. The Ford family values highly the registration of the house. The revisions in the nomination forms, also, make a difference to them. The Michigan History Division feels they are indicated.

Kathryn Eckert, Supervisor of the Historic Sites Research Unit, discussed your policies and procedures for revising National Register nominations with Bill Lebovich of your staff who suggested we send to you revised forms to substitute for the original forms.

Thank you for cooperating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha M. Bigelow".

Martha M. Bigelow
Director, Michigan History Division
and
State Historic Preservation Officer

MMB/KBE/sl

Carol,

SHPO submits revised form for this property, listed in the NR on July 24, 1979. (Per request of Ford family).

See comment sheet & SHPO's letter for further explanation.

Please sign new nom. form.

Emmajane
11-26-79

Sig.
VBD