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DEC 20 1990United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name MANLEY-LEFEVRE HOUSE  
other names/site number OLD STONE HOUSE

## 2. Location

street & number Dorset West Road, Town Highway 1 N/A not for publication  
city, town Dorset N/A vicinity  
state Vermont code VT county Bennington code 003 zip code 05251

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☒
- private
- 
- ☐
- public-local
- 
- ☐
- public-State
- 
- ☐
- public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☒
- building(s)
- 
- ☐
- district
- 
- ☐
- site
- 
- ☐
- structure
- 
- ☐
- object

## Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing  | Noncontributing          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| <u>6</u>      | <u>      </u> buildings  |
| <u>3</u>      | <u>      </u> sites      |
| <u>1</u>      | <u>      </u> structures |
| <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> objects    |
| <u>10</u>     | <u>0</u> Total           |

Name of related multiple property listing:

NANumber of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date 12/18/89

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒
- entered in the National Register.
- 
- ☐
- See continuation sheet.
- 
- ☐
- determined eligible for the National
- 
- Register.
- ☐
- See continuation sheet.
- 
- ☐
- determined not eligible for the
- 
- National Register.
- 
- ☐
- removed from the National Register.
- 
- ☐
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register1/28/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/secondary structuresLANDSCAPE/gardenINDUSTRY/extractive facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/secondary structuresLANDSCAPE/garden**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/FederalLATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Other: Federal Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Marblewalls MarbleWeatherboardroof Slate shingleother Brick chimneysMarble chimneys

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet for description.

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Manley-Lefevre House

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The Manley-Lefevre House is the principal building on a well-preserved, 100 acre parcel of land located in a rural area on the west side of Dorset West Road. The name of the house is derived from two periods of construction. The main block of the house, known as the Manley House, was built of marble c.1820 in the Federal style. The Lefevre additions were completed between 1908 and 1927, and are sympathetic in style, scale and material to the original house. The facades of both the main block and the additions utilize marble quarried on the property and in West Rutland. The other contributing features of this property include: a formal landscaped garden (1914-1915), with a teahouse (1915) and a pergola (1915); four out-buildings, which include a garage apartment (c.1820, 1909), a power house (1911), a quarry office (c.1860), and a spring house (1908); and two quarries (c.1820, 1840-1876). The entire property is in excellent condition and is meticulously preserved by the current owner.

I. The Manley House (c.1820)

The Manley House (#1) is constructed of Dorset-White marble that was quarried on the property and is designed in the Federal style of architecture. The house is constructed of ashlar and rough-cut marble bearing walls (20"), laid in irregular courses, resting on a marble foundation (24"). The two and one-half story house is rectangular (30' x 40') and is topped with a side-gabled roof covered with slate shingles. Two gable-end chimneys are constructed within the marble bearing walls and are topped corbelled brick above the roof line. The three panel wood entrance door is flanked with dress marble lintel and door surrounds, and still features the original side lights that are typical of the Federal style. All of the windows, with dressed marble lintels and sills, are symmetrically balanced with 12 over 12 double-hung wood sash on the first floor, 12 over 8 double-hung wood sash on the second floor, and 6 over 6 double-hung wood sash in each gable end, under a fanlight that is infilled with marble.

The principal features of the full cellar are:

- a) a poured concrete floor installed in 1925 over the original earthen floor;
- b) a rebuilt cellar door that leads to the original exterior hatch way;

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c) an opening was cut in 1925 through the original marble foundation near the southwest corner that leads into the Kitchen Wing addition;

d) a 1000 gallon fuel tank set in sand and surrounded with a brick retaining wall in the northeast corner that was installed in 1925;

e) an A.S.M.E. Standard No. 34 oil-fired Mills Water Tube Broiler manufactured by the H. B. Smith Co. of Westfield, Mass. that was installed in 1925;

f) the boiler vents into the original marble chimney on the west elevation;

g) modern concrete block in the cellar supports the reconstructed marble fireplace on the first floor.

The interior of the first floor, second floor and attic were extensively remodeled in 1908. The first floor originally had a center hall that was enclosed in 1962 to form a coat closet and a bathroom in the stairway that originally provided access to the cellar. The first floor now consists of a living room, dining room and a smaller entrance hall with a stairway leading to the second floor. To the left, the living room exhibits narrow maple flooring, cherry wood paneling, a plaster ceiling and an operating fireplace constructed of polished marble. To the right, the dining room exhibits narrow maple flooring, old cherry paneling (from a local 18th century tavern) and a plaster ceiling with boxed-in joists. The dining room boasts a built-in pine hutch, two corner cupboards and a decorative mantel over a reconstructed non-operating brick fireplace with original marble hearth and fireplace crane. The original rear door now leads into the 1908 Kitchen Wing.

The second floor exhibits narrow maple flooring, cherry wood paneling and plaster walls and ceilings. There are three bedrooms and two bathrooms. The larger bathroom was remodeled in the Art Deco style in the mid 1930s. The original stairway that led to the attic has been reversed, made possible by the 1925 addition to the second story of the Kitchen Wing. The attic was remodeled into two bedrooms, a bathroom and a closet with beaded paneling throughout. Between 1925-1927 two gabled dormers were installed on the south elevation.

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II. The Lefevre Additions (1908-1928)

Beginning with the Lefevre ownership in 1908, the main house received additions until 1928. The architect Eugene J. Lang was commissioned for all of these additions. In 1908 new exterior treatments to the Manley House featured new windows (except the original side lights) wooden shutters, a new front door and a front-gabled roof supported by wooden brackets over the front entrance.

In 1908 a single story Kitchen Wing (20' x 30') was added to the south elevation of the original house. The frame addition sensitively employed: a) the foundation of an existing frame barn; b) the original rear door of the house; and c) did not cover the center window on the first floor of the house. The exterior of the Kitchen Wing was covered with clapboard, decorative wood lattice and featured a brick chimney on the west elevation. This addition received a gable roof with slate shingles and 8 over 8 double-hung wood frame sash window and wooden shutters. In 1910 the Kitchen Wing was extended (to 52') to provide a dressing room with a door on the south wall that leads to an indoor Swimming Pool. Also in c. 1926 a wine and liquor vault with a steel door was installed on the east wall of the cellar of the Kitchen Wing. The interior of the Kitchen Wing was remodeled in 1965 with modern appliances and wooden cabinets.

In 1910 an indoor Swimming Pool (26' x 40') was constructed of marble with window-framed end walls. The building was topped with a gabled roof covered with slate shingles. The pool is 6' deep with a concrete floor, marble walls and has been empty of water since the late 1920s. The rectangular shape (26'x 40') of the Swimming Pool echoes the shape of the original Manley House.

From 1925-27 both the Kitchen Wing and the Swimming Pool received a second story. The architectural style of the extensive reconstruction was sensitive to the Federal style of the original marble house. Both gable ends received decorative chimney shapes to echo the brick chimneys on the Manley House. There is an elaborate Palladian window on the west elevation and a duplicate Palladian shape is inset on the east elevation of the second story. The Kitchen Wing and the Second Floor Studio were

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wrapped with marble quarried in West Rutland, that was cut into rectangular shapes and laid in irregular courses. Both additions received gabled roofs covered with slate shingles. The windows are 8 over 8, 6 over 6, and 12 over 8 double-hung wood sash. There are four gabled dormers on the west elevation of the kitchen wing. Two identical entrances on the east elevation of the kitchen wing employ turned marble columns and gabled roofs. The brick chimney was also wrapped in marble. The interior of the second floor provided two bedrooms, two marble-tiled bathrooms, and a narrow hall running the entire length of the kitchen wing.

The swimming pool received a second story that incorporates a large studio bedroom. The interior of the studio was designed in the Spanish Revival style of architecture. The studio (26'x24') features an oak floor, plastered walls, a marble fireplace, a vaulted chestnut ceiling, and a commanding Palladian window on the west wall. The room is decorated with period furniture, La Scala light fixtures, paintings, and imported tile set in recessed windows. A decorative stairway leads to a balcony that provides access to a loft with a dormer on the south wall that leads to a two-story, marble-tiled bathroom addition with a similar marble exterior and hip roof covered with slate shingles. There is an exterior marble staircase that leads to the ground level. On the first floor an exterior door provides access to a room for the storage of seasonal garden furniture. The bathroom addition was completed in 1969 with the same exterior marble as the studio.

III. Other contributing buildings, structures and objects.

In addition to the Manley-Lefevre House (#1), there are five other contributing buildings on the property: the teahouse (#2), located in the garden (#8); the garage apartment (#4); the power house (#5); the quarry office (#6); and the spring house (#7). The contributing structure and sites are: the pergola (#3), located in the garden (#8); the garden itself (#8); and the lower and upper quarries (#9 and #10).

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2. The Teahouse (1915)

The teahouse (11' x 15') is the principal structure in the garden that was constructed in 1915. This three sided building is constructed of marble and features a gable roof with slate shingles. Four round marble columns on the east elevation face the garden. A fountain with a lion-head spigot is built into the west wall. The initials "E L", for Edwin Lefevre, and the date 1915 are carved in the west wall. The expression, "Libros Y Amigos, Pocos Y Buenos" is also carved in the west wall, which translates into English as "books and friends, few and good." There is a canvas awning on the east elevation.

3. The Pergola (1915)

The open air pergola is a contributing structure, built in 1915, with a marble floor and an open frame roof supported on 20 square marble columns. A balustrade on the north elevation incorporates 26 turned marble balusters. Two semicircular staircases with marble steps run between the pergola and the formal garden. At the base of the pergola, a stepped architectural fountain system with lion-head spigots supplies water for the two vertical fountains in the garden below.

4. Garage Apartment (c.1820, 1909)

This building (26' x 30') was probably constructed at the same time as the original Manley House. It was originally a two story frame barn with a marble foundation constructed into the slope of the hill. Historic photographs indicated that the main door was on the second floor of the west elevation and that the entrance to the first floor was on the north elevation.

In 1909 this building was converted into a Garage by the same architect that designed the Kitchen Wing and Swimming Pool additions. The reconstruction employed the existing marble foundation, heavy timber framing and added an exterior brick chimney, clapboard siding and a porch on the north elevation. An exterior marble staircase leads to a solid wood entrance door on the second story of the west elevation. There are 4 sixteen pane fixed wood sash on the west elevation of the first floor, 8 over 8 double hung wood sash and a double French door on the second floor. The window treatments, wood shutters and slate roof were selected to echo the

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architectural details on the main house. The removal of the porch; an overhead garage door and single entrance door on the north elevation; and an interior stove pipe topped with faux brick are the exterior alterations. The interior now incorporates four rooms and a large attic with beaded paneling throughout.

5. Power House & Ice House (1911)

This single story frame building (20'x30') with concrete foundation was constructed in 1911. The interior of the power house contained a generator, storage batteries and tools. The (15'x16') addition on the west elevation was originally constructed as an Ice House and was enclosed in 1977. The exterior has clapboard siding, wood sash and a gable roof covered with slate shingles. The building has modern facilities and currently functions as a residence.

6. Quarry Office (c.1860)

This single story frame building with marble foundation (21' x 22') was originally constructed at the upper marble quarry, approximately 600' south of its present location. Historic photographs indicated that the building originally had a rear addition that was removed when the building was moved in three sections to its present location. The exterior has wood shingle siding, wood sash, a gable roof with wood shingles and an open-air porch on the north elevation. The building has no modern facilities.

7. Spring House (1908)

The spring house (15' x 26') was constructed in 1908 on top of an existing spring. The frame building has a concrete foundation and a shed roof with asphalt shingles. Three underground lead pipes extend from the spring house to the garage apartment, the teahouse and the architectural fountain system in the formal landscaped garden below.



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8. The Garden (1914-1915)

The formal garden was designed in 1914 by the accomplished landscape architect, Charles Downing Lay. It features a flower garden with a teahouse (#2) and a marble staircase that leads up the hill to the pergola (#3).

The flower garden was built in 1914 and includes fifty objects. Most prominent are two vertical fountains (5' x 7') with lion head spigots. The fountain on the left is carved with date 1914 in Roman numerals and the expression "A Fonte Puro, Puro Defluit Aqua" is carved in Latin. The expression translated into English means "from this pure fountain, pure water flows." A similar fountain on the right is carved with the expression "Gutta Cavat Lapidem Non Vi Sed Saepe Cadendo" in Latin that translated into English means "a drop of water falling on a stone wears it away not by force but by falling often." Other objects in the formal garden include: a statue in a marble pool, two marble flower urns, a copper sundial on a marble pedestal, five benches, and one marble table. Of special note are 32 marble flower boxes (18" cubes) that are carved in various designs (ie. geometric, floral, animals, ships, etc.). Marble sidewalks separate the numerous flower beds and a 4' marble wall surrounds the garden on the north.

9. & 10. The Marble Quarries (c.1820, 1840-1876)

The Lower Marble Quarry, (SEE SITE PLAN, 9) approximately 200' south of the main house, was not a production quarry. Rather it is an outcropping of marble. Blocks and pieces of marble were dug from this site and used as building materials for the foundation and walls of the Manley House and foundation of the original barn. The site, approximately 50'x100'x(depth unknown) is filled with water and is surrounded by forest and meadow.

The Upper Marble Quarry, (see Site Plan, 10) approximately 600' south of the main house, was a production quarry that was opened in 1840. The quarry is accessible by a trail leading up the hill. Channel marks are evident on the nearly 100 large blocks of marble (many 60-100 square feet) that were abandoned when this quarry closed in 1876. The site, approximately 100' x 100'x(depth unknown) is filled with water and is surrounded by forest. The area uncovered is approximately two and one-quarter acres. The Quarry Office was originally located on a hill overlooking the now abandoned quarry.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Landscape Architecture  
Industry

Period of Significance

c.1820-1927  
1914-1915  
1840-1876

Significant Dates

c.1820  
1908-1910  
1925-1927  
1914-1915

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Lang, Eugene J. (Lefevre additions)  
Lay, Charles Downing (garden)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet for statement of significance.

☒ See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Primary

#### I. Maps, Drawings, Photographs

Beers, F.W. Atlas of Bennington County, Vermont. (1869) Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Co., 1969. (Hawley, Holley, Kent & Tyrel, blacksmith shop and marble quarry)

Lay, Charles Downing. "Plan for Estate Garden of Edwin Lefevre, Dorset, Vermont." Sheet no. 151-3, 1/8"=1'. (Collection of D.B. & K.H. Dickenson)

☒ See continuation sheet

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

#### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 100.29 acres; see legal description

#### UTM References

A 1 8 6 5 5 2 5 0 4 7 8 7 9 9 0  
Zone Easting Northing

C 1 8 6 5 5 6 1 0 4 7 8 7 2 5 0

B 1 8 6 5 4 9 6 0 4 7 8 7 4 5 0  
Zone Easting Northing

D 1 8 6 5 5 7 8 0 4 7 8 7 3 7 0

☒ See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The property currently owned by David B. and Katherine H. Dickenson is part of the land formerly owned by Edwin Lefevre, Jr. The property is on Town Highway 1, .5 miles northwest of Benchmark #943 at the junction of the Dorset West Road and Cross Road, as identified on the USGS Manchester Quadrangle. The property is a 100 acre polygon as identified on the site plan, the USGS map and the land survey by W. Byrd LaPrade, dated 7-19-85.

☒ See continuation sheet

#### Boundary Justification

The property maintains its historic integrity and is the same property described in historic deeds. See title search throughout Section 8 statement of significance and Town of Dorset, Town Clerk, Book of Deeds, Book 62, Page 238.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John P. Johnson

organization Historic Palm Beach County Preservation Board date July 1, 1989

street & number P.O. Box 1494 telephone (407) 395-6771

city or town Boca Raton state Florida zip code 33429

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The Manley-Lefevre House in Dorset, Vermont is historically significant under National Register Criterion A for contribution to the development of the marble industry in Vermont, and architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C for embodying the styles and characteristics of several building periods spanning from the early-19th century through the early-20th century. The house is distinctive for its extensive use of marble, beginning c.1860 when the Manley House was built, and continuing through the 20th-century additions. The 20th-century additions and formal garden were designed by architect Eugene J. Lang and landscape architect Charles Downing Lay, respectively, both of New York City. Edwin Lefevre, Sr., the house's owners during 20th-century additions, was an author and a Panamanian ambassador to the countries of Spain, Italy and France. The Manley-Lefevre House is significant both locally and statewide because the property illustrates historic themes that are important to the development of the town of Dorset and the state of Vermont.

This statement of significance is divided into five chapters:

- I. The Manley House, c.1820-1852
- II. The Manley Quarry, 1840-1876
- III. The Corey Farm, 1879-1907
- IV. The Lefevre House, 1908-1983
- V. The Dickenson House, 1983-present

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I. THE MANLEY HOUSE: 1820-1852

The Manley families were among the earliest settlers of the Town of Dorset in northern Bennington County. John Manley, Jr. arrived in 1768 and was soon followed by his father Deacon John Manley. In the first Federal Census of 1790 there were six Manley families living in Dorset. The six heads of families, each at a separate dwelling, were Deacon John (1711-1803), his son John, Jr. (1738-1816), and his son John, III (1762-1849); and also, both of John Jr.'s brothers, Nathan (1750-1835) and William (1758-1835). The sixth head of household was George Manley (1752-1835) who was Deacon John's great nephew from a separate line in the family genealogy.<sup>1</sup>

George Manley came to settle in Dorset in 1775 and married Mary Harmon, a relative of Reuben Harmon, Jr. Harmon operated Harmon's Mint in East Rupert and coined copper for the Republic of Vermont from 1785 until 1788. George and Mary Manley's only son that lived beyond the age of 21 was Martin born in 1783.<sup>2</sup>

In the Census of 1800 George Manley is again listed as a resident of Dorset. Mary Manley died in 1808 and George remarried, a woman name Lucy, last name unknown. In the Census of 1810 George is listed as a resident of Rupert.<sup>3</sup>

An 1813 deed from George to his son Martin mentions the existence of two houses; at this time one house is sold to Martin. In the 1820 Census both George and Martin are listed as separate heads of household in Dorset. George Manley's will, dated 1822 (but not probated until after his death in 1836) gives his house to his son Martin and gives the use of the "North Room" to his second wife, Lucy, and his only unmarried daughter, Abigail. In 1832 Martin Manley became a Deacon in the Congregational Church in Dorset.<sup>4</sup>

The construction date of the Manley House is unknown. The dressed marble lintels and sills used in the construction of the house probably came from the marble finishing mill at South Dorset that was operated by Spafford Field and Josiah Booth where marble saws were first used in 1818. The Manley House was constructed after 1818, probably about 1820.<sup>5</sup>

The Manley House is constructed of ashlar marble that was quarried with hand tools from the lower quarry located approximately 200' behind the site of the house. The dressed marble, probably finished at the South Dorset mill, was used for the lintels, sills and door surrounds. To construct

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the large two story house, first the inside wood frame was put up complete and then the stone work was filled in, beginning with the larger pieces at the four corners. Large smooth stone was used as veneer, backed up with stone rubble. At the top of each course, tie stones were laid across the thickness of the wall to give it strength. Thus the wall was built alternatively, veneer slabs and tie stones all set in a mortar according to the skilled eye and hand of the mason. <sup>6</sup>

The Manley House is an excellent example of the Federal style of architecture that was popularized in America by the architect Asher Benjamin (1773-1845). Benjamin's The Country Builder's Assistant (1797) and The American Builders Companion (1806) were available to early Vermont's house builders and carpenters. Constructing a house of wood was mastered by many of Vermont's early builders, but the Manley House was handcrafted by a master stone mason and is a work of sculpture. It survives as an excellent example of, the era when the now separate disciplines of engineering and architecture were fashioned into, a single work of art. The architect or master stone mason of the Manley House is unknown. The house is especially unique because only one other house in Dorset, a major marble producing town, is partly constructed of marble as a building material. The Manley House is historically significant as an excellent example of Federal style architecture in Vermont. <sup>7</sup>

The Vermont architectural historian Herbert Wheaton Congdon's (1876-1965) classic Early American Homes for Today explored the early styles of Vermont's architecture as practiced by its master house builders. Congdon observed that "Little is known about the architects or master builders of Vermont." <sup>8</sup>

This Federal style house features these identifying elements: a) a two-story simple box; b) side-gabled roof; c) unadorned cornice; d) semi-circular fanlight shapes, incorporated into the gable ends; e) dressed stone sills, lintels and door surrounds; f) sidelights at the entrance door; g) interior chimneys; and h) windows with double hung sash aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows, five ranked on the front facade. <sup>9</sup>

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## II. THE MANLEY QUARRY: 1840-1876

The Manley-Lefevre House is historically significant in the development of the marble industry in Dorset. In 1785 Isaac Underhill opened the first marble quarry in Vermont at the base of Green Peak (renamed Mount Aeolus in 1860) on lands owned by Reuben Bloomer in South Dorset. Underhill produced fire-jams, chimney backs, hearths, lintels and after 1790 marble grave stones. Underhill was soon joined by Reuben Boomer and John Manley, Jr. who opened quarries on the opposite side of the road. The marble quarries became the principal source of industry and wealth throughout Dorset. Technological advances included sawing marble (1818), hand channeling (1841), derricks (1848), tunneling (1859) and machine channeling (1865). When the method of sawing marble was well established the former sources of inferior marble were abandoned and better stone was used. This sawn marble found a market in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and elsewhere. In 1840, before the introduction of Italian and Rutland, Vermont marble, the demand for Dorset marble was beyond the supply.<sup>1</sup>

In 1840 Martin Manley (1783-1856) and his son George H. Manley (1814-1887) opened Dorset's seventh marble quarry approximately 600' behind the Manley House. The Manley Quarry produced large blocks of marble that were hauled to the marble finishing mills in Dorset or to Manchester.<sup>2</sup>

The Manley Quarry and farm were sold in 1852 to Nelson J. Sanford and the name was changed to the Sanford Quarry. By 1855 there were eight quarries in production and the marble was exported throughout markets in the eastern United States. At this time fifteen men were employed at the Gray, Wilson and Sanford Quarry.<sup>3</sup>

During the most productive years of marble production, the Sanford Quarry property appears in numerous deeds that conveyed partial interests in the property to all the prominent men in the Dorset marble industry, ie. Wilson, Way, Hawley, Tyrel, Kent, and Root. About 1870 the business for several of the quarries began to decline and in 1876 the Sanford Quarry closed along with three others. Nevertheless, this quarry was the third most productive in the history of the Dorset marble industry with 2,500,000 cubic feet extracted.<sup>4</sup>

Between 1852 and 1879 the original Manley House was occupied by Nelson J. Sanford and probably other owners, superintendents or quarrymen at various times. In 1879 the marble partnership of Hawley, Kent & Root sold the farm and abandoned quarry to William Corey.<sup>5</sup>

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III. THE COREY FARM: 1879-1907

From 1879 until 1907 the farm was known as the William Corey farm. William Corey (1844-1904) emigrated from Ireland and after 1868 resided in South Dorset. Corey was a part-time farmer and was also employed in the marble mills with other Irish workers.<sup>1</sup>

The following digression is intended to place the Corey Farm in the historic context of a late 19th century Vermont community. By 1880 Dorset boasted four Post Offices: Dorset Village (1806); East Dorset (1826); North Dorset (1841); South Dorset (1847); along with three churches: the Congregational Church of Dorset (1784); St. Jerome's Roman Catholic Church at East Dorset (1853) and the Congregational Church of East Dorset (1867). In 1880 the population was 2200 people with 12 school districts. In Dorset Village there was a hotel, two general stores, two blacksmith shops, a grist mill, a wagon shop, a boot and shoe shop and a marble finishing shop. At South Dorset there was a grocery, a general store, a blacksmith shop, a match factory, and two marble mills. In East Dorset there was a railroad station for the Bennington & Rutland Railway, a hotel, two general stores, a grocery, a cheese factory, three blacksmith shops, a shoe shop and marble mills. At this time North Dorset had a railroad station on the same line, an iron foundry, a lumber mill, a cheese factory, and a marble shop. The majority of the male population were engaged in either farming or the marble industry as owners, foreman, artisans, or laborers.<sup>2</sup>

William Corey was employed as a marble polisher in one of the Dorset marble mills in 1880. Corey's probate records indicate that he owned an 80 acre parcel and a 4.5 acre parcel that included the farm, household furniture, a few farm implements, and a few farm animals. Corey attended St. Jerome's Church until his death in 1904 and was survived by his wife Mary Ann Corey (1852-1933) and ten children. The widow Corey sold the farm to Ernest H. West in 1907 who sold the property the following year to Edwin Lefevre, Sr.<sup>3</sup>



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## IV. THE LEFEVRE HOUSE: 1908-1983

The Manley-Lefevre House is historically significant because of its association with two important persons, Edward Lefevre, Sr. and Charles Downing Lay. Between 1908-1928 Lefevre made several sensitive additions to the original Manley house and Lay designed an impressive formal country estate garden. Both the Lefevre additions and the Lay Garden possess integrity of design, setting, materials and workmanship.

In 1907 Edwin Lefevre, Sr. traveled by train from Bronxville, New York to Manchester and by stage to Dorset. At the suggestion of the artist Lorenzo Hatch, Lefevre visited Dorset Village with the intention of locating a summer residence for his family. Lefevre returned in the Spring of 1908 and purchased the Corey Farm from Ernest H. West. The Lefevre family's association with this property lends historical significance to its development.<sup>1</sup>

Edwin Lefevre, Sr. (1871-1943) was born in Colon, Columbia, attended Michigan Military Academy and studied mining engineering at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. In 1890 he began a career in journalism and in 1900 he published his first book Wall Street Stories. In 1902 he married Martha Moore (1878-1960) and they had two sons, Edwin, Jr. (1902) and Reid (1904). Beginning in 1908 the Lefevre family were summer residents of the house known locally as the Old Stone House and became permanent residents of Dorset in 1917.<sup>2</sup>

Edwin Lefevre engaged Eugene J. Lang, a New York architect, to remodel the house (1908), design a kitchen wing for the main house (1908), remodel the barn into a garage (1909), and design an indoor swimming pool (1910). Little is known about the architect Eugene J. Lang, he was probably an architect of minor importance.<sup>3</sup>

In 1909-1910 Lefevre traveled with his family to Europe as an Ambassador from Panama to Spain, Italy and France. Lefevre was fluent in Spanish, Italian and French and the trips were designed to establish formal diplomatic relations on behalf of his uncle Dr. Amador Y. Guerrerro, the President of Panama. Lefevre's younger brother Ernest T. Lefevre was President of Panama from 1920-1924. Influenced by the formal gardens of Italy, Lefevre decided to utilize the marble resources of Vermont to reproduce a formal European style garden and commissioned Charles Downing Lay, a landscape architect from New York City. Lefevre knew Lay as a fellow member of the famous Century Club in New York.<sup>4</sup>

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Charles Downing Lay (1877-1956) was born in Newburgh, New York, studied architecture at Columbia University (1896-1900) and received the second degree in landscape architecture awarded in the United States from Harvard University (1902). Lay studied with Mahonri Young, Allen Tucker and Gifford Beal. Lay began an independent practice (1904) and was in partnership with Robert Wheelwright (1911-1914). Together with Henry V. Hubbard they founded the quarterly LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (1910) and Lay was the editor and manager (1910-1921). As a landscape architect Lay designed gardens, parks, subdivisions, and private estates. In his best known book, The Freedom of the City (1926) he featured the commission for Edwin Lefevre in Dorset. Lay was a consultant on landscape architecture to the New York World's Fair (1939) and founded the Housatonic Valley Planning Association (1948). Lay was a pioneer in the "City Beautiful Movement" (1893-1930) and the "Country Place Era" (1893-1933). <sup>5</sup>

Lay designed this formal garden in the Italian style, that utilized local marble for building materials, and traditional plantings. Lay created for Lefevre the opulent country estate that was in vogue at the turn of the century. The Lefevre estate was, and still is, one of the show places in Dorset. <sup>6</sup>

Between 1900 and 1925, at the zenith of his literary career, Lefevre published nine books and was a financial writer and editor for several business magazines in New York including Harpers Weekly. Throughout most of his career he was a free-lance writer, regarded as an authority on Wall Street conditions and activities. His best novel, Reminiscences of a Stock Operator, was published in 1923 and was reprinted several times. Lefevre traveled in the best social and political circles interviewing and writing articles at various times about Henry M. Flagler, Theodore Roosevelt, Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany and Fulgencio Battista of Cuba. <sup>7</sup>

In 1911 Lefevre constructed a separate power house to generate electricity for the entire property. In 1923 Lefevre sold shares of stock and organized the Dorset Electric Light Company. The small company employed the existing telephone poles, and where necessary installed additional poles, and supplied the first electricity throughout Dorset. About 1927 the company was sold to the Vermont Public Service Commission. <sup>8</sup>

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Between 1925 and 1927 Lefevre again commissioned Eugene J. Lang to reconstruct the kitchen wing and design a Spanish style studio above the indoor swimming pool. The studio was where Lefevre wrote numerous fiction and non-fiction articles until 1937. After 1937 he concentrated on his antique collection that included an incredible collection of Early American flasks and bottles. At the time of his death in 1943 Lefevre was writing a book about Americana.<sup>9</sup>

Lefevre was a member of the American Institute of Arts & Letters, the Century Club in New York and the Ekwanok Country Club in Manchester. He attended St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church in Manchester until his death in 1943.<sup>10</sup>

Edwin Lefevre's first son, Edwin, Jr., (1902- ) graduated from Williams College in 1925 and returned to Dorset to help the family in the major reconstruction of the house. At this time Edwin Jr. worked for his father and Ernest West at the Dorset Apple Orchard Company. In 1929, off to seek a challenging career, Edwin Lefevre, Jr. joined the New York Stock Exchange and by 1956 was a managing partner in a major odd-lot dealing firm on Wall Street. In 1960 his mother, Martha Lefevre, died and Edwin Jr. purchased his younger brother's share of the estate that included the Lefevre House in Dorset. In the 1960s Edwin, Jr. and his family were summer residents in Dorset. During that time he made many necessary improvements to the property. Lefevre installed new fuel oil heating and electrical systems; remodeled the interior of the kitchen wing; constructed the bathroom addition to the master bedroom; constructed an apartment over the garage and replanted the formal garden. In 1968 Lefevre rebuilt the stone wall on the north side of the Dorset West Road and constructed a three story barn as a workshop, garage and warehouse for his father's antique collections. In 1969 Lefevre retired as a limited partner from the Wall Street firm and became a permanent resident of Dorset. In 1977 Lefevre conveyed the entire property to the Proctor Trust Company as Trustee. In 1983 the Trust conveyed the entire property to the current owners, David B. and Katharine H. Dickenson.

Edwin Lefevre, Jr.'s ownership of the Manley-Lefevre House represents an excellent example of balancing, for nearly a quarter century, the preservation of this historic property while at the same time upgrading it to modern living standards.<sup>11</sup>

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Edwin Lefevre's second son, Reid Lefevre (1904-1968) was born in Hartsdale, New York and settled with his parents in Dorset in 1917. Reid was educated at various colleges in New England. About 1924 he began promoting boxing exhibitions and in the early 1930s organized carnivals for the Manchester Fair. These early efforts culminated in the KING REID SHOWS, a traveling seasonal carnival. By 1946 it was the largest show in New England with a fleet of thirty trucks, 165 employees and held contracts to play the large fairs in New York State. Beginning in 1947 the KING REID SHOWS traveled to Canada. Also in 1947 his show received national notoriety when an article in Life magazine featured his carnival at the Vermont State House and the famous painter Norman Rockwell illustrated a cover for the Saturday Evening Post that depicted a merry-go-round at the KING REID SHOWS. <sup>12</sup>

In 1947 Reid Lefevre, a Republican, was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives. The triumph of his legislative career, that spanned 21 years, was leading the social reform bill to victory, an effort for which he was named outstanding legislator by the press corps at the State House for the 1967 session. <sup>13</sup>

By the 1960s it took 115 trucks to move the carnival from its winter home in Manchester to Pennsylvania, New York, throughout New England and ten weeks in Canada. The KING REID SHOWS were featured at the Rutland State Fair in Vermont, the Skowhegan State Fair in Maine, the Danbury State Fair in Connecticut and the famous Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts. Reid Lefevre was a director of the National Showman's Association and the Showman's League of America. While attending a carnival exhibitors convention in Portland, Maine, he died

in 1968. <sup>14</sup>

## V. THE DICKENSON HOUSE: 1983-PRESENT

The Manley-Lefevre House was purchased by David B. and Katharine H. Dickenson in 1983 from a Trust held by the Proctor Trust Company for Edwin Lefevre, Jr. A small parcel, (14.5 acres) east of the Dorset West Road, was conveyed out of the former Lefevre property in 1984. A large traditional New England country estate auction was conducted by Richard W. Withington in June of 1984 and most

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of the vast antique collection of Edwin Lefevre, Sr. was sold. During the last five years the Dickenson family has maintained the integrity of the property through an aggressive preservation program.

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## LEGAL DESCRIPTION

"PARCEL ONE: Beginning at a point marked by a marble monument located on the westerly edge of the right of way of the Dorset West Road, so-called, said point being the northeast corner of this parcel and a corner of lands now or formerly of Leonard Martin; thence along the line of said lands now or formerly of Leonard Martin S 38° 31' W, a distance of 2,749.90 feet, to a point; thence S 79° 44' E, a distance of 593.40 feet, to a point; thence N 27° 16' E, a distance of 409.00 feet, to a point; thence S 52° 44' E, crossing a small brook, a distance of 627.00 feet, to a point marked by a marble monument; thence along the line of a stone wall S 14° 43' E, a distance of 516.90 feet, to a point marked by a marble monument set in said stone wall; thence turning and continuing along the line of said stone wall in a southeasterly direction, a distance of 2,217.00 feet, to an iron pipe set at the end of said stone wall; thence along a barbed wire fence N 37° 21' W, a distance of 154.30 feet, to a point where it connects with a stone wall; thence along the line of said barbed wire fence and stone wall N 62° 48' W, a distance of 79.30 feet, to a point; thence along the line of said barbed wire fence and, for a short distance, the stone wall, N 11° 04' W, a distance of 1,034.00 feet, to a point; thence N 13° 30' W, a distance of 26.10 feet to an iron pipe; thence N 75° 25' E, a distance of 252.20 feet, to an iron pipe set on the westerly edge of the right of way of said Dorset West Road; thence along the edge of the right of way of said Dorset West Road in a northwesterly direction, a distance of 2,068.50 feet, to the marble monument marking the point or place of beginning. Said parcel containing 100.29 acres be the same more or less."

The foregoing description of Parcel One is based upon a survey entitled 'The Land of Edwin Lefevre, Jr., Dorset West Road, Dorset, Vermont' dated April 27, 1981, prepared by W. Byrd LaPrade, Consulting Engineers, Planners and Land Surveyors, Manchester Center, Vermont; a copy of which was filed in the office of the Dorset Town Clerk on June 24, 1983. Reference is hereby made to said survey and the note and comments therein contained.

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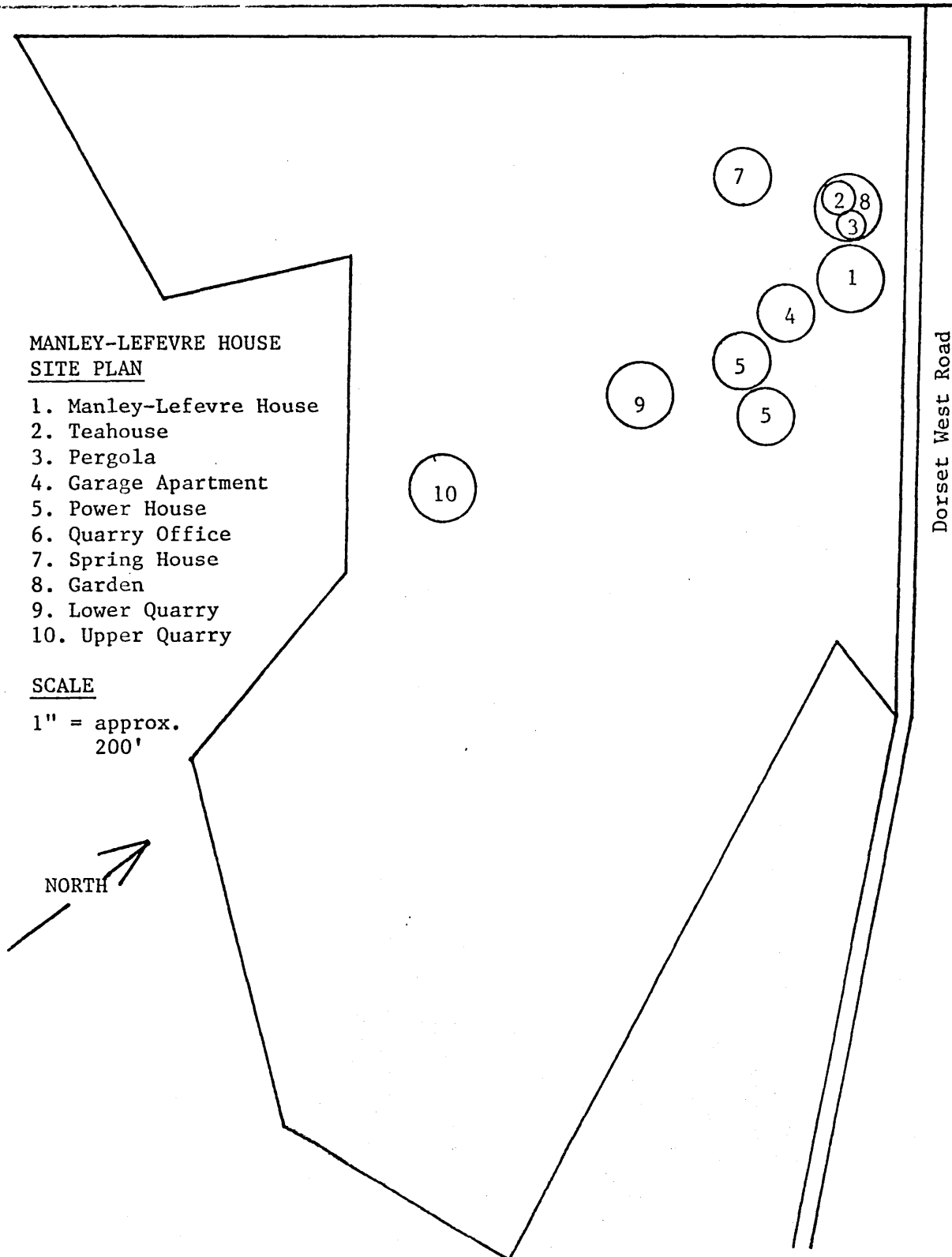
MANLEY-LEFEVRE HOUSE  
SITE PLAN

1. Manley-Lefevre House
2. Teahouse
3. Pergola
4. Garage Apartment
5. Power House
6. Quarry Office
7. Spring House
8. Garden
9. Lower Quarry
10. Upper Quarry

SCALE

1" = approx.  
200'

NORTH



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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

This information is the same for all photographs:

Manley-Lefevre House

Dorset, Vermont

Credit: John P. Johnson

Date: June, 1988

Negative filed at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photograph 1

Description: View looking west at Manley-Lefevre House.

Photograph 2

Description: View looking west at Manley-Lefevre House

Photograph 3

Description: View looking west at entrance to Manley-Lefevre House

Photograph 4

Description: View looking south at gable of Manley-Lefevre House

Photograph 5

Description: View looking south at Lefevre addition to Manley House

Photograph 6

Description: View looking east at Manley-Lefevre House

Photograph 7

Description: View looking west at Garden with pergola.

Photograph 8

Description: View looking east at Garden.

Photograph 9

Description: View looking north at Teahouse in Garden.

Photograph 10

Description: View looking south at Garage Apartment

Photograph 11

Description : View looking west at Power House (left) and  
Quarry Office (right).

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PROPERTY OWNER:

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