

The dealer in second-hand woodwork cooperated in taking Boscobel apart with the greatest care, numbering each element. These parts were stored in barns around Garrison.

A 36-acre tract on a plateau high above the Hudson River midway between Garrison and Cold Spring was acquired, and Boscobel now has been assembled there. The tract adjoins State Route 9D.

The site is across the Hudson from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Directors of the restoration expect to welcome many visitors from among the motorists on circle tours to West Point, Bear Mountain State Park, the Washington Headquarters and other Revolutionary War shrines near Newburgh, and the Sleepy Hollow restorations that the late John D. Rockefeller, Jr. endowed in Westchester County.

Boscobel, on its original site overlooking the Hudson at Crugers, was an American landmark that was commenced in 1795 and completed in 1804. It became one of the great social centers of the Hudson Valley.

It is a fine example of the style of the noted 18th-century Scottish-born architect, Robert Adam. His elegant designs, based on classic and Italian models but displaying an airiness and lightness all their own, are to be seen in numerous public and private buildings in London and elsewhere in Britain and are considered 18th-century masterpieces.

IMPORTED DESIGN

It was constructed by Staats Morris Dyckman, a member of one of the wealthiest families in New York at that time. Dyckman had seen the design in England and brought it to this country. The name Boscobel was taken from an estate in Shropshire, England, where, in 1651, King Charles II hid in a hollow oak after the defeat of his army by Oliver Cromwell at the Battle of Worcester.

Originally the name Boscobel had come from the Italian "Boscobello," meaning beautiful wood.

The mansion was sold by Dyckman descendants to the Westchester County Park Commission in 1923. The commission relinquished Cruger's Park, in which Boscobel stood, and the mansion itself, to the Veterans' Administration after World War II. The Government built the \$25,000,000 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Hospital for neuropsychiatric veterans next to the house.

INDOOR SKATING RINK

Several times the Veterans' Administration threatened to raze the mansion, partly because it was considered a possible hiding place for mentally disturbed patients of the hospital. Then, for several winters, the main hall, 42 feet long, was used as a skating rink by Boy Scout groups.

Despite the efforts of those interested in preserving the mansion, its demolition was suddenly ordered by the Veterans' Administration and the dealer made his \$35 purchase. The bargain has been compared with Peter Minuit's purchase of Manhattan for \$24.

A carriage house on the new property of Boscobel will have exhibitions of the various aspects of Hudson Valley life in the era of the early Dyckmans. They will include farm implements and tools. The exhibits will be changed occasionally.

The dedication will be at 3 p.m. today in a large tent on the property. Soon after June 1, the mansion and other buildings will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Tuesday. The entrance fees will be \$1 for adults, 60 cents for children 6 to 14 years old, and \$2.50 for families of two adults and up to four children.

[From the New Republic]

[From the New York Times, Saturday, May 13, 1961]

A HOME FOR AMERICAN ART

No one seriously questions that European painting, in the aggregate from A.D. 1200 to the present, is immeasurably superior to anything yet produced on these shores. But this does not mean there is no such thing as American art. Unfortunately the visitor to Washington—from Dubuque or Delhi—can easily draw that conclusion from what seems to be the total absence of concern on the part of the American Government for American art.