

= Beechwood (Vanderlip mansion) =

Beechwood is a Hudson River estate in Scarborough @-@ on @-@ Hudson , in Briarcliff Manor , New York . The estate was most notably the home of Frank A. Vanderlip and his family , and is a contributing property to the Scarborough Historic District . The house and property were owned by the Vanderlip family from 1906 to 1979 . The property is now a 37 @-@ condominium complex as the result of a development project that began in the 1980s .

Contemporarily , Beechwood is known for being a filming location of the 1970 film House of Dark Shadows , and a filming location and the primary setting of Savages , a 1972 Merchant Ivory film . In June 2016 , Money Man : Frank Vanderlip and the Birth of the Federal Reserve premiered there . The film documents Vanderlip 's life and was filmed at Beechwood .

= = History = =

The first portion of the main residence dates to 1780 , and includes the original kitchen 's fireplace . Benjamin and Ann Folger were among the earliest residents , and named their residence " Heartt Place " . In the 1830s , Folger deeded the estate to a self @-@ proclaimed prophet , Robert Matthews , who believed himself to be the resurrected Matthias of the New Testament . Matthews convinced his followers to fund an expansion to the house , which he had named " Zion Hill " . During this time , Isabella Baumfree (Sojourner Truth) was a housekeeper to him . After he spent the money his followers and Folger had given him , Matthews became violent . Further on , he was tried for murder , and acquitted for lack of evidence . Matthews was later found guilty of assaulting his grown daughter , and he served a short jail term .

The property containing the mansion had been in the Remsen family for decades . Anna Remsen Webb was one of the inheritors of the estate . In the 1890s , her husband 's half @-@ brother Henry Walter Webb substantially added to the estate from numerous properties , including the Remsen estate and William Creighton 's estate (Creighton had named his house " Beechwood " after he purchased it in 1836) . Henry Webb attached the name Beechwood to the entire estate and house . He renovated and expanded the mansion , hiring R. H. Robertson to double the size of the house . Robertson designed the expansion in the Colonial Revival style , to be compatible with the neoclassical Federal style of the original but more ornate .

Frank Vanderlip purchased the 23 @-@ acre (9 @-@ 3 ha) property from Webb 's widow in 1906 , and bought more property to make the estate a total 125 acres (51 ha) . He hired William Welles Bosworth soon after to further enlarge the house and to design a wing for his library and the lawns of the estate . In 1907 , while Vanderlip was vice president of the First National City Bank (later Citibank) , he had two columns from the headquarters 55 Wall Street shipped to Beechwood (55 Wall Street was being remodeled and the columns were re @-@ spaced , with two left over) . He had the columns placed two @-@ thirds above ground in Beechwood 's entranceway off of Albany Post Road (now U.S. Route 9) , an entrance which was later closed due to increasing traffic volume on Route 9 (the current entrance is off Scarborough Station Road) . Vanderlip also made a cage for his children 's pet rabbits using a discarded wrought @-@ iron elevator , also discarded from the bank . Among the guests the Vanderlips hosted at the house were Woodrow Wilson , Henry Ford , Sarah Bernhardt , Annie Oakley , Franklin D. Roosevelt , John D. Rockefeller , and Isadora Duncan . The Wright Brothers even landed a plane on the property . In 1910 , Vanderlip bought the nearby mansion Woodlea , although his wife Narcissa Vanderlip prevented the family from moving , due to her preference of Beechwood over the grandiose Woodlea . In 1979 , Vanderlip descendants sold the property . Three condominiums were built during a transformation of the mansion in the 1980s . A later expansion resulted in a total of 37 condominiums on the property 's 33 acres .

= = Description = =

Near the center of the property , at the southwest corner of Route 9 and Scarborough Station Road

, sits the eponymous mansion that features two large porticoed entryways , a two @-@ story octagonal library , numerous porches , verandas , and over 100 interior rooms . Other major structures included a hunting lodge , a second mansion built for the Vanderlips ' daughter Charlotte , a home for the Vanderlips ' physician , and the Scarborough School , a progressive school which the Vanderlips established just south of the mansion in 1916 .

The 80 @-@ acre (32 ha) private parkland was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted for the Vanderlips and has expansive lawns , a grove of large beech trees , imported trees , and an Italianate garden with an alcove , fountain , and small pool with Wisteria @-@ covered trellises . The lawns , formal gardens , and stone gazebo , erected by the Vanderlips , have been preserved and feature in wedding ceremonies that occasionally occur on the property .

The Beechwood estate also contained a carriage house , gatehouse , squash court (no longer extant) , and a white @-@ stucco artist 's studio named Beech Twig , which was home to author John Cheever , whose children attended the school on the property . The family rented the house until they moved to Ossining . Descriptions of the building 's interior closely match descriptions employed by Cheever in some short stories . Novelist Richard Yates also lived in the same house as a child , as well as other artists , writers , and composers . The estate 's garage is located northeast of the mansion , and is a flat @-@ roof , two @-@ story concrete building dating to the early 1900s .