

Ringwood Manor State Park

Ringwood Manor State Park lies in upper Passaic County and is reached by State Route 23 and the road from Pompton, New Jersey to Sloatsburg, New York.

In 1936 the late Erskine Hewitt deeded the Manor House and 95 acres of land to the State of New Jersey in order to have this historic property preserved for posterity. His nephew, Norvin H. Green, has given additional property bringing the total to 579 acres.

Development of the iron industry started at Ringwood in 1740 with the formation of the Ringwood Company. The products of its forges and furnaces were of great importance to the Colonies during the American Revolution. During this war, troops were stationed here and Ringwood Manor saw many military personages. General Washington made it his headquarters on several occasions and his horses were shod in the old blacksmith shop. Robert Erskine, manager of the Ringwood Mines and Surveyor General for the American Army, prepared many maps here which aided Washington in his military campaigns. Following Erskine's death, October 2, 1780, his remains were buried in the cemetery on the property overlooking the lake. Washington and his wife planted a tree at his grave in 1782, thus closing a chapter in the history of Ringwood.

About 1807 the Ryerson family came into possession of the property. In 1853 it was purchased by Peter Cooper, New York philanthropist, best known as founder of the Cooper Union Institute. The property passed to Abram S. Hewitt, America's foremost iron master of the 19th century.

Formal Garden Scene



The Manor House

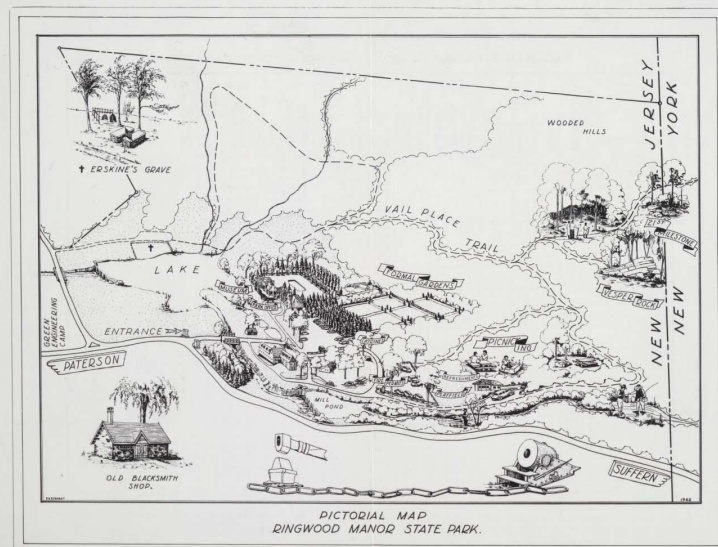
This spacious, rambling, old mansion represents the living conditions of the Ryersons, Coopers and Hewitts from about 1810 to 1950. It contains a valuable collection of Americana amassed by the Cooper and Hewitt families. The 78-room mansion is open to the public from May 1 to October 31.

The following publications are on sale at the Manor House:
 "The Story of Ringwood Manor" 32-page brochure by Alden T. Cottrell price \$.25
 "Ringwood Manor—The Home of the Hewitts" 112-page booklet by Edward Ringwood Hewitt price \$.50

Relics and Gardens

Among the interesting relics of the iron-making days will be found an anvil and trip hammer from the Hewitt forge; a deck gun from the frigate Constitution, better known as "Old Ironsides," and a Civil War mortar, the carriage of which was made here under a "rush order" issued by President Lincoln. In front of the house lies a huge chain, purchased by Abram Hewitt, reputed to be a portion of the chain stretched across the Hudson River during the Revolution to prevent passage of British vessels.

The formal gardens were developed by Mrs. Abram S. Hewitt and her daughter, Eleanor Hewitt. They contain many plants and trees with unique historical backgrounds.



Passaic Co., Ringwood Manor State Park, 1962

Water Wheel

On the site once occupied by an iron forge is a replica of a water wheel which is currently used to pump water to a hillside reservoir. The slow but steady turn of the 12-foot wheel pumps 24,000 gallons a day to serve irrigation, ornamental fountains and other needs.

Wildlife Sanctuary

The park has been dedicated as a wildlife sanctuary. Hunting, trapping and the carrying of firearms or bows and arrows are prohibited.

Fishing

The waters of the park provide an excellent opportunity for fishing. The Ringwood River is annually stocked with trout by the Fish and Game Division, and Sally's Pond, open to fishing only on specific days, is well stocked with large-mouth bass and pickerel. The small ponds directly in front of the Manor House are not open. Other than these restrictions, fishing is subject to the New Jersey fishing laws.

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