

PROPERTY OF
NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY

NOV 24 1969

185 W. State Street
Trenton, N. J.

New Jersey Highway Authority



PRESS KIT

GARDEN STATE ARTS CENTER

For release: Governor's Press Conference

STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

Thursday, January 28, 1965

974.90
A 792
1965 copy 3



Garden State Parkway INFORMATION

JOHN B. TOWNSEND
Vice Chairman

SYLVESTER C. SMITH, JR.
Treasurer

D. LOUIS TONTI
Executive Director

MILTON LEVY

Director of Public Relations

Tel. 442-8600

WOODBIDGE, N.J.

January, 1965

I.

GARDEN STATE ARTS CENTER FACTS SHEET

The New Jersey Highway Authority will build and operate the Garden State Arts Center. The site is at the Authority's own Telegraph Hill Park in Holmdel Township, Monmouth County, along the Garden State Parkway which it operates as a toll road.

The Authority has commissioned internationally-famous architect Edward Durell Stone to design the master plan for the unique superhighway roadside cultural facility. Mr. Stone expects to have his master plan for the Center completed on or about June 1st, with construction to start later this year.

The Arts Center is to encompass an amphitheater, playhouse, historical mall, botanical gardens, nature trails, art galleries and food facilities. A first phase of the project is planned for completion by the Summer of 1966, including the basic amphitheater structure and essential utilities, parking areas and landscaping.

Governor Richard J. Hughes disclosed plans for the Center in his annual message to the Legislature on January 12th, saying it "will rival any similar facility in this country".

The Center programs will be geared to present music of all types-- symphonic, pops, jazz, opera, band, pipe & drum, etc.--as well as drama, dance, and art in all other forms. Both amateur and professional performances will be arranged, with admissions charged for some of the events. Special programs for school children are planned.

A feature of the Center with its unique outdoors character and natural assets will be musical presentations under the stars in summer months permitting accommodation for thousands on the grassy slopes of the area.

Events will be scheduled for periods when Parkway traffic is normally at much below capacity, thus drawing greater use of the toll road during off-hours and avoiding conflict with peak volumes.

Telegraph Hill Park already has an internal network of paved roads affording access from either the northbound or southbound roadway of the Parkway to any facilities there, which presently include picnic areas and a scenic overlook for panoramic views of Raritan Bay, the lower New York skyline and surrounding countryside. These existing facilities will be blended in with the Arts Center.

The site on the Parkway is a conveniently central point for travel from much of New Jersey. It is some 30 miles south of Newark; some 35 miles north of Toms River and the gateway to the burgeoning southlands of New Jersey; and less than 50 miles east of Trenton, the Capital.



Garden State Parkway INFORMATION

JOHN B. TOWNSEND
Vice Chairman

SYLVESTER C. SMITH, JR.
Treasurer

D. LOUIS TONTI
Executive Director

MILTON LEVY

Director of Public Relations

Tel. 442-8600

WOODBIDGE, N.J.

January, 1965

II.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF EDWARD DURELL STONE

Edward Durell Stone, who will design the master plan for the Garden State Arts Center at Telegraph Hill Park on the Garden State Parkway, stands high in his field of architecture. He has been called variously "one of the most important architects of our time", "one of our century's greatest", "genius", and...Time Magazine, in a cover story featuring Mr. Stone's work, said:

"Edward Durell Stone was a pioneer modernist, undoubtedly the profession's freest spirit and by general consensus the most versatile designer of his generation."

Born in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on March 9, 1902, Mr. Stone was educated at the University of Arkansas, Harvard and M.I.T. Architectural Schools. In 1927, he won the Rotch Traveling Scholarship for two years' architectural study in Europe. Upon his return, he worked as a designer for several prominent New York firms on such projects as Rockefeller Center and The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. He was chief designer of Radio City Music Hall.

His identity as a versatile designer was firmly established in the 1930's by such buildings as New York's Museum of Modern Art and the Conger Goodyear House.

His international fame as an architect has come from such works as the El Panama Hotel in Panama City (its cantilevered balcony became a style-setter for resort hotels from Hawaii to Istanbul); the American Pavilion at the 1958 Brussels World's Fair (awarded several gold medals); and the United States Embassy in New Delhi, India (widely hailed as a landmark in government buildings).

More recently, he designed the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., a national cultural center for which President Johnson broke ground on December 2, 1964.

He has also designed a large number of residences--from small houses to immense estates; the Yardley plant in Totowa, N.J.; the Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art in New York; the headquarters for the National Geographic Society in Washington; the National Football Hall of Fame in New Brunswick, N.J.; several buildings at the current N.Y. World's Fair, including the Christian Science and Billy Graham Pavilions; a Mosque and a new Atomic Institute in Pakistan; and his largest project, a complex of buildings to form an entirely new campus for the State University of New York in Albany.

Aside from practicing architecture, Mr. Stone is an author, lecturer and professor of fine arts. His autobiography, *The Evolution of An Architect*, was recently published by Horizon Press. His present firm bearing his name, with offices at 7 East 67 Street in New York City, was organized in 1936.



Garden State Parkway INFORMATION

JOHN B. TOWNSEND
Vice Chairman
SYLVESTER C. SMITH, JR.
Treasurer

D. LOUIS TONTI
Executive Director

MILTON LEVY

Director of Public Relations

Tel. 442-8600

WOODBIDGE, N.J.

January, 1965

III.

BACKGROUND SKETCH OF TELEGRAPH HILL PARK

Telegraph Hill Park, site of the projected Garden State Arts Center, is the name given to the rolling, picturesque area stretching across both sides of the north-south Garden State Parkway around Milepost 116 in Holmdel Township, Monmouth County. The name practically came with the acquisition of the area land by the New Jersey Highway Authority as part of the Parkway right-of-way. It was bought then for the Parkway motoring public's recreation and rest with future development in mind.

The Authority, created by the Legislature in 1952 to complete and operate the Parkway as a toll road, has from the outset informally called the whole area Telegraph Hill for easy identification. Historians said that name applied actually to the east side only. The west side was supposed to have been known as Crawfords Hill. The Center's basic site is on the east side.

Park was formally added to the name in 1957 when the Authority dedicated the expansive roadside area to "lovers of history, nature and good old-fashioned picnics" after improving and providing additional public facilities there. Improvements included a network of paved roads through the Park, a picnic grove, parking area, rustic trail and a scenic overlook enclosure.

Telegraph Hill Park is a high elevation area abounding in a great variety of trees and shrubs, including Dogwood, White and Red Pine, Pear, Spice Bush, and native Azalea. It encompasses some 350 acres with principal public features on the east side where the scenic overlook, picnic grove, and special parking area have been provided.

The scenic overlook point is some 280 feet above sea level. On clear days it affords views of Raritan Bay, the lower New York City skyline, Staten Island, the big, new Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, and the surrounding countryside of Monmouth County.

Telegraph Hill is historically significant as an Indian smoke-signal point. Historians have said it later was a Revolutionary War site of a beacon that relayed warnings to American militia watching the actions of the British then encamped in New York City. Still later, they said, semaphore signals were sent from there to give New York shipping merchants news of the arrival of sailing vessels within Sandy Hook, which the Hill overlooks.

A Parkway State Police Station and Maintenance District Building are located off by themselves on the west side of the Park area, where there are also picnic tables, drinking fountain, and sanitary facilities for the public. At one time, the west side was the proposed site of the Authority's permanent Administration Building. But it was abandoned as such because public utilities were not easily available there at that time several years ago.

New Jersey State Library



FROM: Milt Levy
Director of Public Relations
New Jersey Highway Authority
Executive Office
Woodbridge, New Jersey
Phone: 442-8600

ARCHITECT

Edward Durell Stone, international noted architect, who has been named for the Garden State Arts Center at Telegraph Hill Park, New Jersey.



FROM: Milt Levy
Director of Public Relations
New Jersey Highway Authority
Executive Office
Woodbridge, New Jersey
Phone: 442-8600

Aerial View of Telegraph Hill

This wide-angle aerial photo focuses on the basic site of the projected Garden State Arts Center at Telegraph Hill Park on the Garden State Parkway. The view looks west across the Parkway's main north-south roadways with the proposed hub of the Arts Center area shown in the foreground.



FROM: Milt Levy
Director of Public Relations
New Jersey Highway Authority
Executive Office
Woodbridge, New Jersey
Phone: 442-8600

Arts Center Sketch

The New Jersey Highway Authority's preliminary staff concept of the projected Garden State Arts Center is shown in this artistic sketch of the Telegraph Hill Park site on the Garden State Parkway. Internationally-famous architect Edward Durrell Stone has been commissioned by the Authority to design the actual Center.



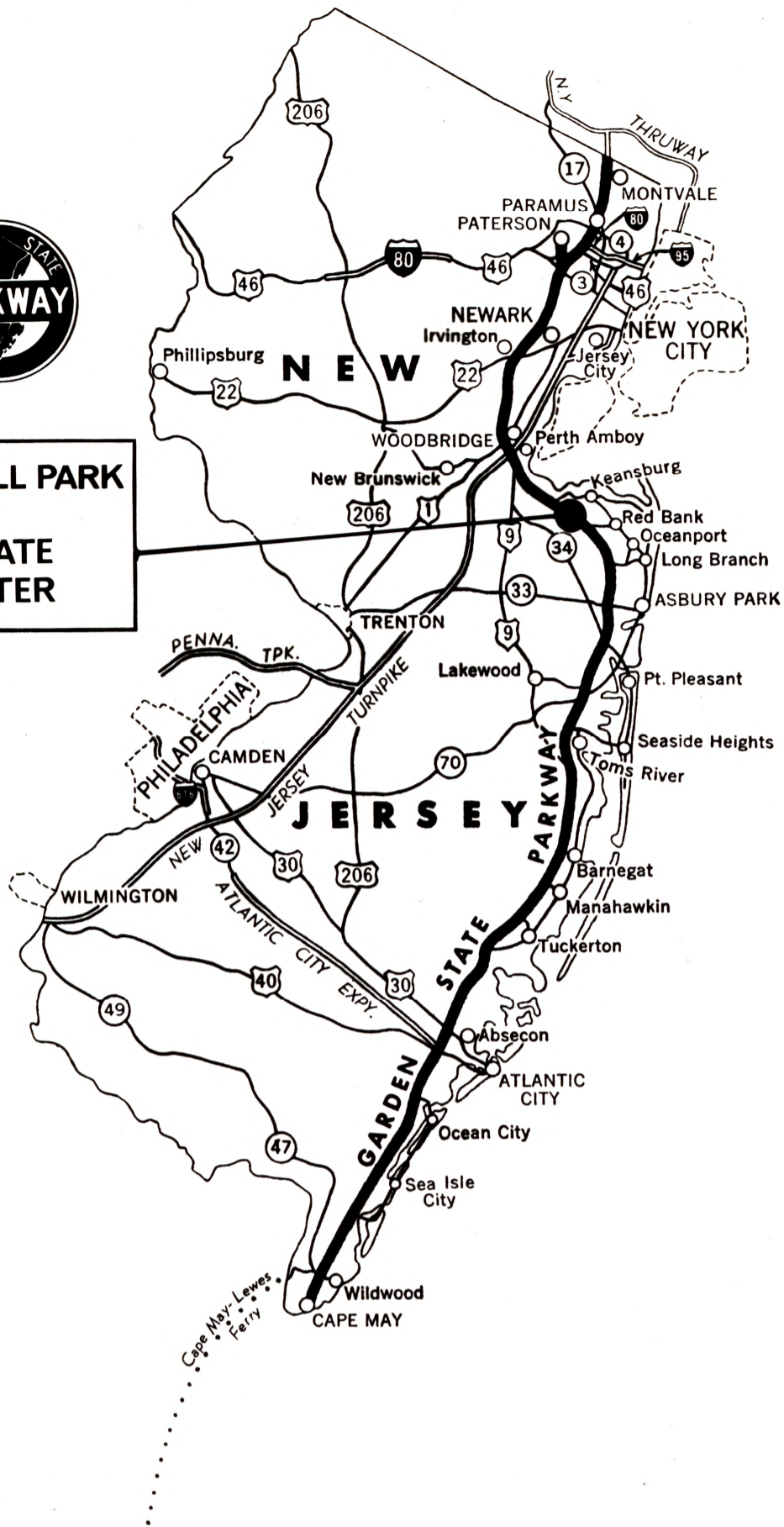
FROM: Milt Levy
Director of Public Relations
New Jersey Highway Authority
Executive Office
Woodbridge, New Jersey
Phone: 442-8600

View Thru The Telegraph Hill Trees

The richness of nature at the Telegraph Hill Park site of the projected Garden State Arts Center is indicated by this view from the scenic overlook presently there. You're looking north through a wooded area onto the main roadways of the Garden State Parkway.



**TELEGRAPH HILL PARK
SITE OF
GARDEN STATE
ARTS CENTER**



FROM: Milt Levy
Director of Public Relations
New Jersey Highway Authority
Executive Office
Woodbridge, New Jersey
Phone: 442-8600

Map of New Jersey

The site of the projected Garden State Arts Center at Telegraph Hill Park on the Garden State Parkway is in Holmdel Township, Monmouth County, centrally located in New Jersey to its developed areas. The locale is some 30 miles south of Newark and the vast northern metropolitan area; some 35 miles north of Toms River and the gateway to the burgeoning southlands of New Jersey; less than 50 miles east of Trenton, the Capital; and conveniently located on the route to Red Bank-Long Branch-Asbury Park and all Jersey shore areas.