



Guastavino Walking Tour

*The Estate of
Rafael and Francesca Guastavino*

Established in 1894

Please respect these ruins by -

- ◆ Staying off the walls and not disturbing bricks, tiles & articles.
- ◆ Taking only photos and leaving only footprints.

Guastavino Walking Tour

Welcome to Rhododendron, the estate of Rafael & Francesca Guastavino. Between 500 and 1000 acres were purchased by the Guastavinos in 1894 while Rafael was at work on the vaulted tile ceilings at the Biltmore House. Rhododendron evolved into a working estate, more than likely emulating Biltmore and the estates Rafael was familiar with in his formative years in Spain. Items produced and sold under the Rhododendron Farms label were lumber, wine, hard cider, goat's milk and probably many others.

The Walking Tour creates a view into this working estate from the late 1800's into the 1940's. Photographs show what the estate looked like during those years. Information from historical records, letters and written accounts are included on the signs.

We are pleased to share the story of Rafael Guastavino and his impressive contributions to American architecture. Enjoy your walk.

Artifacts Exhibit

To learn more about Rafael Guastavino and Rhododendron please visit the exhibit of his bricks, tiles, wine and dairy bottles, ceramics collection and photographs housed in the library in the upstairs lobby of the Gaines Cook Guest House on the Christmount campus.



The Guastavino Museum Project

The Guastavino Museum Project is a sponsored program of Christmount. The Project goal is to create a museum to educate the public about the life and the genius of Rafael Guastavino. The dream is to someday construct this museum with a tiled dome using the technique that Guastavino perfected, known as "cohesive construction." The focal point of the museum will be the exhibit created by John Oschendorf, Professor at MIT. With this exhibit as the foundation, it is Christmount's vision for the museum to become the repository of artifacts of his building projects and stories of his life in the United States and Spain.

Ways You Can Help

Although there is no charge for the Walking Tour, a donation of \$3.00 per person will be welcomed. This will help defray the cost of producing brochures and maintaining the historical site.

Larger contributions for the future museum are also appreciated. Christmount is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your gift is tax deductible. Please make your check payable to Christmount and indicate that it is designated for the Guastavino project.

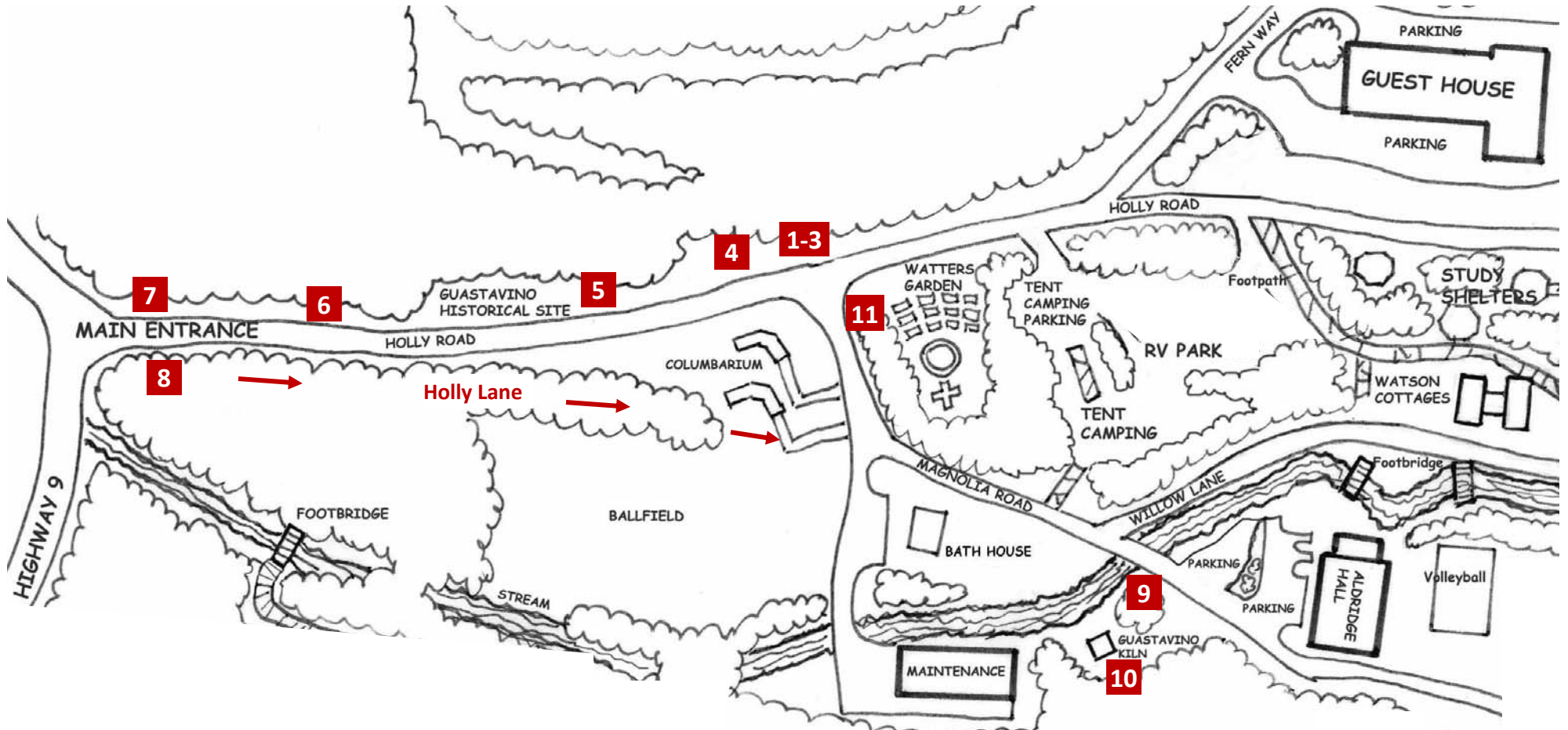
In addition, become a **Friend of Guastavino** by providing the Christmount office with your name, address and email address. This will allow you to receive periodic emails about the progress on making the Guastavino Museum a reality.

Christmount

Christmount was incorporated in 1948 for religious and educational purposes. Christmount sits on 620 acres of the former Guastavino Estate that contains the eight-acre National Register of Historic Places and a 400-acre nature preserve. Christmount operates on a year-round basis as a retreat, camp and conference center that serves a wide variety of churches, nonprofits, educational institutions and government agencies.

Guastavino Walking Tour Map

Visit our Guastavino website at www.rguastavino.org



Signs

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Rafael Guastavino Sr. Architect | 5. Courtyard | 9. Barn |
| 2. Rafael & Francesca Guastavino | 6. Wine Cellar | 10. Chimney & Kiln |
| 3. Rhododendron Farms | 7. Outbuildings | 11. Reflecting Pond |
| 4. Spanish Castle | 8. Gatehouse & Holly Lane | |

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