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**Finding aid for the Humphry Repton architectural and landscape designs,  
1807-1813**

Finding aid prepared by J. Gibbs.

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## Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Humphry Repton architectural and landscape designs

**Date (inclusive):** 1807-1813

**Number:** 850834

**Creator/Collector:** Repton, Humphry, 1752-1818

**Physical Description:** 3.0 linear feet(3 boxes, 2 flat file folders)

### Repository:

The Getty Research Institute

Special Collections

1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100

Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688

(310) 440-7390

**Abstract:** English landscape designer. An assembled collection of drawings, letters and a report document Humphry Repton's designs for gardens and buildings.

**Request Materials:** Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the [catalog record](#) for this collection. Click here for the [access policy](#) .

**Language:** Collection material is in English

### Biographical/Historical Note

English author and landscape designer, Repton is sometimes called the successor to the landscape designer Lancelot "Capability" Brown, though Repton was never as financially successful.

Initially untrained in architecture, landscape design, or gardening when he began his career, Repton used his drawing skills to obtain clients. Unlike other landscape designers, Repton left the execution of his designs to others. He produced books for his clients that showed before and after views to help them visualize his designs. Usually in red bindings, these design proposals became known as Repton's "Red Books" and perhaps were the foundation of the books he published, *Sketches and Hints on Landscape Gardening* (1795) *Observations on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (1803), and *Fragments on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (1816). An example of a Red Book can be found in this collection.

Repton worked with his sons, the architect John Adey Repton and George Repton. The Reptons practiced together and separately with the architect John Nash prior to 1800.

### Access

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### Preferred Citation

Humphry Repton architectural and landscape designs, 1807-1813, Research Library, The Getty Research Institute, Accession no. 850834.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa850834>

### Acquisition Information

Acquired in 1984 and 1985 in separate acquisitions and compiled by the Repository. Report concerning the gardens at Ashridge is from the De Belder Library.

### Processing History

Processed by J. Gibbs

### Scope and Content of Collection

An assembled collection of drawings, letters, and a report document Humphry Repton's designs for gardens and buildings. Garden designs were proposed for Ashridge, Herts., owned by the Earl of Bridgewater, circa 1807-1813. (The designs were adapted and implemented after Repton's death by Sir Jeffry Wyattville.) Three drawings present designs for the Earl of Spencer's Harleston Park, Northamptonshire (undated). Four ink drawings are designs by Humphry and George Repton for a lodge for Chas. Hoare (Luscombe), circa 1810. A sketchbook with the title "A few hints concerning landscape sketches" (circa 1810) was made by Repton and describes how to use watercolor in landscape drawings.

### Subjects - Names

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Repton, Humphry, 1752-1818

**Subjects - Topics**

Architecture--Great Britain--19th century

Landscape design--Great Britain

Landscape drawing--Great Britain

**Genres and Forms of Material**

Architectural drawings--England--19th century

Sketches--England--19th century

**Contributors**

Bridgewater, Francis Henry Egerton, Earl of, 1756-1829

Repton, George Stanley

Repton, J. Adey (John Adey), 1775-1860

Torbron, Steward

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- Box 1\*                    **Report concerning the gardens at Ashridge, respectfully submitted to the Earl of Bridgewater...by H. Repton, 1813**
- Scope and Content Note**
- Manuscript, bound volume in a red buckrum case. Text, followed by plans and views in ink, some in watercolor. Copy photographs available, see Box 3.
- Box 2, Folder 1        **Letters and plan related to Ashridge, 1807-1808, undated**
- Scope and Content Note**
- Items found in "red book" in box 1.
- Box 2, Folder 1        **Letter from William Wilkins submitting a proposal for alterations to the buildings at Ashridge, 1807 Feb 24**
- Box 2, Folder 1        **Letter from "Essex, ditto il piccolo Palladio" proposing a house design, 1808 Oct 31**
- Box 2, Folder 1        **Ground plan, with features labelled, in ink, unsigned, undated.**
- Box 2, Folder 2        **Drawings for a lodge for Chas. Hoare [Luscombe], circa 1810**
- Scope and Content Note**
- 4 ink drawings of a roof plan, south elevation, elevation with gate detail, and roof section. Unsigned, undated. Drawings found in a copy of Repton's *Fragments*, marked on the cover "Chas. Hoare Luscombe." Apparently by Humphry and George Repton in conjunction with John Nash's work at Luscombe castle.
- Box 2, Folder 3        **A few hints concerning landscape sketches, circa 1810**
- Scope and Content Note**
- Small sketchbook, bound in red leather with former owner's label inside, in which Repton shows how to prepare sketches and lay on watercolors of different values. Prepared for C. J. Wall, with inscription on last page.
- Box 3\*                    **Photographic surrogates of Report concerning the gardens at Ashridge...**
- Scope and Content Note**
- Comprising black-and-white photographs (8x10), and color photographs (11x14).
- Oversize 1\*\*            **Items concerning the house and gardens at Ashridge, undated**
- Oversize 1\*\*            **House and Flower Garden, Ashridge, Herts. by Stewart Torbron**
- Scope and Content Note**
- Title from caption. Ink and color wash plan.
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- Oversize 1\*\*      **Plan of grounds**  
                         **Scope and Content Note**  
                         Color wash plan with annotations.
- Oversize 1\*\*      **Schematic plan of grounds**  
                         **Scope and Content Note**  
                         With color wash, ink and pencil; contains many annotations regarding landscape details.
- Oversize 1\*\*      **Landscape design and plantings**  
                         **Scope and Content Note**  
                         Handwritten document, 1 sheet, folded in half, describes the garden.
- Oversize 2\*\*      **Drawings of Harleston Park, Northamptonshire, undated**  
Oversize 2\*\*      **Harleston Park, Northamptonshire; the property of Earl Spencer,**  
                         **Scope and Content Note**  
                         Title from caption. Detailed black ink drawing shows view of the house and grounds.  
                         Unsigned; dates to the later 19th century (?)
- Oversize 2\*\*      **Harleston House as designed by The Reptons 1808-1811**  
                         **Scope and Content Note**  
                         Title from pencil caption on drawing. Ink and color wash elevation, mounted on board.
- Oversize 2\*\*      **The Deer Park**  
                         **Scope and Content Note**  
                         Title from caption. Ink and wash ground plan, mounted on board. Other writing on  
drawing includes legend: "Ground-plan of the house, offices, stables, courts, yards,  
gardens, etc. at Harleston Park in Northamptonshire a seat of Robert Andrew, Esq. as  
designed and directed in its execution by H. & J.A. Repton, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811."