

## Chapter 10

### GIRALDA FARMS SECTION

The northwest corner of Chatham Township north of Woodland Road is the section called Giralda Farms. All of the section south of Treadwell Avenue was formerly the estate of Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, who maintained the property as mown lawn and well-tended forests. The estate was home to a herd of a species of small deer. In the 1980s the property was sold to the Prudential Insurance Company which developed the Madison portion of the estate with office buildings. The Chatham Township portion, about 130 acres, though zoned for office buildings remains undeveloped and has changed owners. A sewage pumping station has been approved for construction on Dodge Drive and an underground fuel storage tank in the northern area has been removed.

Much of the section contains wetlands, all of which drain southwest into Loantaka Brook, which flows into the Great Swamp. The wetlands on the former Dodge estate constrain any future development of the central area. The St. Hubert's Giralda animal rescue organization, founded by Mrs. Dodge, which fronts on Woodland Road, in order to expand its facilities obtained permits from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to encroach into wetlands. In compensation St. Hubert's granted a conservation easement to the NJDEP on wetlands along its northern boundary. The conservation easement stipulates no disturbance in that area. The two properties at the southern end of Treadwell Avenue contain wetlands and have conservation easements requiring no disturbance on the wetlands and buffers. According to the NJDEP's Landscape Project the area is potential habitat for wood turtle, a New Jersey state-threatened species.

The northern end of Treadwell Avenue contains several historic houses, the most notable of which is Boisaubin Manor. Built around 1790 it was a stop on the Underground Railroad and now is on the National Register of Historic Houses. The house and the surrounding seven acres are protected by an historic conservation easement, the first in the state.

### OPEN SPACE

There is no Township-owned open space in the section. The former Dodge estate remains vacant though mown and the northern and southern corners of the St. Hubert's property are wooded.