

## **THE LANDSCAPE**

### **Northeastern Ohio Country Estates and the Nursery Trade**

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Fruit growing continued as an important manifestation of estate landscaping in Northeast Ohio, where the nursery trade was one of the largest farm industries of the late nineteenth and twentieth century. Early farmers had found that the soil and climate between the shore of Lake Erie and the closest hills to the south was a microclimate well suited to growing nursery stock. Jesse Storrs of Cortland, New York, bought land east of Painesville in 1853 and established his nursery business the following year. Within several decades, the nursery became the largest in the US.

Lake County became home to many nurseries. As the nineteenth century passed, Cleveland became the industrial and banking center of northeastern Ohio. When these industrialists or their sons sought country estates in the last decades of the nineteenth century, they usually established "farms" accessible to Cleveland, often near Lake Erie, often close to the traction lines that served center city Cleveland. Northeast Ohio industrialists' estates were often distinguished from estates in other parts of the United States by the farm like landscape character of the property. Local Cleveland industrialists sought landscape designers trained as horticulturists at Lake County nurseries: Julius and Henry Kohankie, Michael A. Horvath, E. F. Mullen.