

## OBITUARY

### Vincent N. Merrill

FASLA



Vincent Nichols Merrill, 96, long-time Boston landscape architect, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009 in Plymouth.

Mr. Merrill graduated from Dartmouth College in 1933 with a bachelor of arts in comparative literature, and from the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1935 with a master's in landscape architecture. He worked in the office of noted landscape architect Arthur A. Shurcliff until 1942, when he was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a platoon leader, providing camouflage service in the European Theater until VE Day. He was discharged with the rank of captain in 1946.

Vincent, Anna and Julia (Anna's sister) designed and built their home in Lincoln on a cliff. They called their home "Halvavagenshuset," "The Halfway House" — they lived there 50 years.

After the war, he rejoined Shurcliff's firm and subsequently became a partner in the firm, which was renamed Shurcliff and Merrill. Mr. Merrill's practice encompassed not only private gardens and landscape restorations, but also the planning of public parks, college campuses and other public fa-

cilities including the Boston Public Gardens.

He received awards presented to him by First Ladies Patricia Nixon and Rosalynn Carter in recognition of his efforts to beautify America. Mr. Merrill was a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, past president and Trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and a founder, board member and trustee of the Charles River Watershed Association.

Mr. Merrill was preceded in death by his first wife, Anna Swanson Merrill, who died in 1996 after 53 years of marriage and his second wife, Natalie Prentice Merrill, who died in 2003 after five years of marriage. He was preceded in death by his parents, the Rev. Charles C. and Bessie Merrill, and his brother John Leverett Merrill.

A funeral service will be held at The First Parish Church in Lincoln on Jan. 31, 2009 at 2 p.m. A private interment will be later in the year in Haverhill, N.H.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in his honor to the Charles River Watershed Association, 190 Park Road, Weston, MA 02493, or The Scandinavian Living Center, 206 Waltham St., West Newton, MA 02465.