

FURNISHINGS PLAN,
THIRD FLOOR
SAGAMORE HILL

SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Prepared by
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Historian
May, 1966

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REVIEW

This report was reviewed by Mrs. Reginald P. Rose and Mrs. Richard Derby on June 18. Mrs. Derby requested that the positions of the dress form and rocking chair in the Sewing Room be reversed. She believed the dress form to be a solid figure rather than a wire one as stated on page 6. Both ladies are satisfied with the furnishings plan as amended.

INTRODUCTION

The information in this report is drawn from a number of tape recordings and personal interviews with Mrs. ~~Ether~~ ^{Richard} Derby, and Mr. Archibald Roosevelt, children of the President; Mr. Nicholas Roosevelt, cousin of Theodore Roosevelt; Mrs. ~~R.~~ ^{Reginald P.} Rose, Chairwoman of the Sagamore Hill Committee of the Theodore Roosevelt Association; and Mr. Elisha Dyer Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Theodore Roosevelt Association. The inventory of the house furnishings compiled in 1919 is also used as a basis for the refurnishing.

Drawings of each room are included showing placement of furniture. Those furnishings originally in place and stored at Sagamore Hill are so marked as are items which are no longer available and for which a similar item has been purchased on the advice of the principals.

PART A

The third floor of Sagamore Hill has, since its alteration in 1953, served as a museum for the purpose of exhibiting objects relating to President Roosevelt, his children, and their families. With the restoration of some of the third floor rooms to their former condition and the removal of museum exhibits to a more suitable place of display, namely the Old Orchard Museum, refurnishing the rooms to approximate their historic appearance is now necessary. When refurnishing is accomplished, the entire

house will then accurately portray conditions as they existed during the period of the President's occupancy.

More specifically, the historic period to which the schoolroom, Theodore Roosevelt Jr's room, the maid's rooms, linen closet, trunk room, sewing room and cook's room will be refurnished is that of Mr. Roosevelt's Presidency, 1901 to 1909, since this is the general period to which the rest of the house is restored, and the period of greatest national significance.

Sections (b) and (c) of this report are combined here to aid in continuity.

PART B & C

Theodore Roosevelt Jr. Bedroom

Mrs. A. Roosevelt recalls, "this was Ted's bedroom during the White House days, right after father became President, about 1901." Theodore Roosevelt Jr. used this room, in the summer primarily, from 1901 until 1909, i.e., from the age of 14 until age 22 when he left college and married. Prior to this time he slept in "the Boy's Room" on the second floor.¹ "Archie used the room after Ted and the English governess slept there before Ted."²

Furnishings included an ash wardrobe and towel rack, and a chamber suite (three-quarter bed and bolster, shaving stand and mission oak rocker). Mrs. Derby believes the inventory of 1919 of these contents of the schoolroom show items originally in the Theodore Roosevelt Jr. Bedroom.³

¹Tape Recording, October, 1964, A. Roosevelt

²Tape Recording, October, 1964, E. Derby

³Inventory of 1919 and Tape Recording March 31, 1966, E. Derby

Within the room was a "great big wooden bench with animal skins on it instead of a sofa, in the window and rather high so we could look out."¹ "He had built up, on a level with his window, a queer, stand thing which he used for a sofa, so that he could look at the bay, with all the books in the world on it, and it probably had a bear rug or something; but that was much later than 1901."² (Since Theodore Jr. used the room until 1909 this bench would still have been in the room within the historic period. A bear rug is stored at Sagamore Hill as is a bench that will suffice for the present). "The window seat was long enough to accommodate a mattress, and some of Ted's friends slept there.

(In the room was a) great big bed. The window seat was stained the color of the bed and shelves" (The 1919 inventory lists a three-quarter ash bed as having been in the school room which would be at variance with these later recollections of Mrs. Derby. A three-quarter mahogany bed is stored at Sagamore Hill and is suitable for use here).

Along the West wall was a "bookcase with three shelves, the top one being open, and lots of books."³ It (the bookcase) extended to the gable and was filled with all kinds of books.⁴ On the top shelf stood Ted's treasures, whatever they happened to be".

"In the room were tennis racquets, la crosse sticks, and probably Harvard and Groton banners." "The curtains in Ted's room were an India print and (an India print spread was) on his bed as well"⁵
~~(The bedspread is now on the bed in the Boy's Room at Sagamore Hill).~~

¹Tape Recording, October 1964, A. Roosevelt

²Tape Recording, October 1964, E. Derby

³Tape Recording, October 1964, E. Derby

⁴Tape Recording, October 1964, A. Roosevelt

⁵Tape Recording, March 31, 1966, E. Derby

The room has been modified slightly in that the closet on the south side was removed in 1953 to allow a staircase to be built as an exit for visitors from the third floor. Since this alleviates dangerous congestion on the third floor there is no plan to restore the closet.

Wallpaper approximating the original has been selected by Mrs. Derby for this room.

Schoolroom

"When we were little, Kermit and I (Ethel Derby), and occasionally Ted, had lessons there with Miss Young, our English governess."¹ Recollections of Mrs. Derby and Mr. A. Roosevelt suggest that the school room was used by them probably in the winter of 1899 and possibly the winter of 1900. (In 1899 Mrs. Derby was 8 years old and Kermit 10.) In 1901, according to Mrs. Derby, Theodore Roosevelt Jr. was at Groton, and Kermit and Archibald Roosevelt were at the Cove School, however TR Jr. was tutored in the schoolroom during the summers, therefore the school room was used into the Presidential period by TR Jr., and possibly by Mrs. Derby and Quentin Roosevelt, though this last point is not determined. In any case TR Jr's bedroom and the school room co-existed and were used into the early Presidential period, thus providing justification for furnishing the room as the schoolroom.²

"A wood stove (was in the room) ... as I remember, it stood on the Northeast wall." (the marks of a stove pipe opening are discernible on the East wall, therefore this location will be used. A suitable stove has been purchased by the TRA)

¹Tape Recording, October, 1964, E. Derby

²Tape Recording, March 31, 1966, E. Derby

"Masses of books (were) around it, and I think it (the room) had a revolving book case and; of course, a big round table. A large round table used as a study table (was in the center of the room). "On the table (was) a covering with a fringe around it, darkish, with some kind of figure, and nice to put your arms on. Thick and (colored) brown, and grey, and red, and green, all mixed up, as I remember -- very Victorian. I should say perhaps on the style of a Paisley shawl."¹

In answer to a question by Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Derby replied "(We) just used tables, (for school work)"² (At a later date while looking at antiques in a shop, in company with Mrs. R. Rose, Mrs. Derby saw two children's school desks which she recalled were similar to the desks that she, Kermit, and Ted had used during the time the room functioned as a school room. These two desks were purchased by the TRA for inclusion in the room refurnishing).

"The room was not originally L-shaped but was much larger."³ This room was modified in 1953 to allow for the aforementioned staircase and no structural change is contemplated.

"(The room) would have had curtains and straight back chairs, not comfortable ones. A bookcase in that corner (Northeast) existed 'til many years later."⁴ "In here were some of those God awful pictures that Aunt Emily did. . .copies of things out of the Louvre. . .mostly flowers and (one of) John the Baptist."⁵ "Things that she painted herself. (There were) probably rugs on the floor. On the wall of the schoolroom there was a map of the

¹Tape Recording, October, 1964, E. Derby

²Tape Recording, October, 1964, E. Derby

³Tape Recording, October, 1964, E. Derby

⁴Tape Redording, October, 1964, E. Derby

⁵Tape Recording, October, 1964, A. Roosevelt

United States on a pole that rolled down, and was on hooks, and you learned sort of by osmosis. (In addition) a schoolroom clock and a world globe, a plain one suspended by an arm."¹

Wallpaper for this room, of a similar pattern to that historically used, was selected by Mrs. Derby.

Cook's Room

The 1919 inventory lists the contents of this room as having consisted of a painted bedstead, a maple bureau, an oak washstand, a rocker, an upholstered chair, a towel rack, a small mahogany table, and a small carpet runner. Mrs. Derby did not recall the furniture arrangement of this room, however, these rooms were always used for the same function since the house was built. "One was Annie the cook's room and one was Molly the seamstresses's room, for ever and ever".²

Mrs. Derby recalled straw matting covering the floor.³

Wallpaper was selected for this room by Mrs. Derby.

Sewing Room

This was the room used by Molly (married) Smith) the seamstress, though not for sleeping purposes. "(In it was a) wire figure of a woman, and a sewing machine in the window".⁴ Nearby was a basket with needles, thread and other sewing materials. Mrs. Rose suggested that a dress, typical of the turn of the century might be used on the form and Mrs. Derby concurred.

"On one wall was a picture of a dog looking along a stream and a child -- drowning I suppose. We should have that."⁵

¹Tape Recording, October, 1964, E. Derby

²Tape Recording, March 31, 1966, E. Derby

³Conversation, May 7, 1966, Mrs. E. Derby and Mrs. R. Rose

⁴Tape Recording, October 1964, A. Roosevelt

⁵Tape Recording, March 31, 1966, E. Derby

The 1919 inventory lists two paintings -- one of a deerhead and one entitled "Mountains". Both are at Sagamore Hill.

Wallpaper of a type similar to that which would have been used during the period was selected by Mrs. Derby.

Trunk Room

This small room is untouched and according to Mrs. Derby contained several trunks which Sagamore Hill NHS still owns.¹ No further work need be done here.

Linen Room

Shelves have been installed in this restored room. "(There were) great old trunks piled in there ... and shelves with places for trunks underneath".² According to Mrs. Derby a cedar chest~~also~~ was also in the room during the Presidential period.

East and West Maid's Rooms

The inventory of 1919 lists items under Folio 20 as contents of four rooms: including four single beds, chairs, tables, ^(night tables) and small rugs. Mrs. Derby recalls one of each of these items as well as a bureau in each of these two maids' rooms.³

Of the chairs she says, "I'm sure there were those little rocking chairs and there was one in the sewing room too -- a lovely rocking chair -- those plain rocking chairs with seats that haven't got any arms at all, of wood, and sometimes with cane (seats)." Continuing she said, "...and there were afghans thrown about -- Mother knit them in great long strips and you could have

¹Tape Recording, November, 1964, E. Derby

²Tape Recording, November, 1964, E. Derby

³Tape Recording, November, 1964, E. Derby

it over your bed or wound around you."¹

Curtains in the maids' rooms and cook's room were white scrim or dimity material. "I can see the little square or diamondy things."²

Mrs. Derby recalls straw matting covering the floors of both rooms.³

Wallpaper of a type historically used in both these rooms has been selected by Mrs. Derby. A small sample of wallpaper found during the reconstruction was used as a guide although all that can be determined is that this paper covered the walls some time between 1894 and 1953.

Hallway

The inventory of 1919 lists the following pictures as having been in the hallway: *Theodore Roosevelt and Joseph Cannon, Pastel of a Log Cabin, an* oil of a Mother and Child at prayer, *a lithograph of Frederick the Great, a proof etching of Columbus, *the original deed to Sagamore Hill (Now on display at Old Orchard), Porto Maurizio (believed by Mrs. Derby to have been placed in the hall much later than the Presidential years), (*Jefferson portrait) and a *chart of the United States Ships dated 1902 and given to Theodore Roosevelt by the Kaiser. The last "came while father was in the White House (and originally hung) just outside the sewing room at the Southeast end of the hallway."⁴

¹Tape Recording, March 31, 1966, E. Derby.

²Tape Recording, March 31, 1966, E. Derby.

³Telephone Conversation, May 14, 1966, E. Derby & R. Rheinisch

⁴Tape Recording, November, 1964, A. Roosevelt

* these items are stored at Sagamore Hill

The majority of these pictures are owned by Sagamore Hill NHS and should be replaced.

The Hallway will not be historically accurate because of the modifications of 1953 that have taken place to ease visitor flow and provide for visitor safety. The addition of stairs has been noted elsewhere. On the north wall is a fire hose in a storage case inset in the filled doorframe. (Behind this doorway stood a very large zinc tank to which water was pumped from an outside reservoir by means of a hand pump (now removed) in the kitchen). Ceiling lights in the hall are of a modern design and gas lamp chandeliers, wired for electricity, would be a desirable replacement, and would present less of an intrusion than the present lights. These situations might be modified some time in the future to more closely approximate the historic appearance.

The walnut side table listed in the 1919 inventory was not in the hall during the period in question. According to Mrs. Derby, "(I) never remember anything in the hall".¹

Mrs. Derby recalls a red runner the full length of the hallway² (listed in the 1919 inventory). Utilization of carpeting in the hallway, in addition to being historically correct, is desirable to reduce the noise level, to cover the scarred and pitted floor which is a safety hazard, and to eliminate the present use of masonite covered with rubber runners.

¹Telephone Conversation, E. Derby & R. Rheinisch, May 15, 1966.

²Tape Recording, March 31, 1966, E. Derby.

General

Furnishings

This report, based on the recollections of the principals, will serve for the major part of the refurnishing. Minor additions and changes may result from time to time on the advise of Mrs. Derby, Mr. Roosevelt, or Mrs. Longworth.

Lighting

Lighting in all rooms, at the locations shown on the accompanying diagrams, is by means of electrified gas fixtures attached to the original gas pipe stems. Electricity was not introduced until 1914 (gas arms and fixtures of the type used have been purchased by the TRA on the advise of Mrs. Derby).

Barriers

A description of suitable permanent use barriers will follow in a separate report on protection.

Omissions

According to Mrs. Derby a small walnut side table stood by Ted's bed and a sewing cabinet was used in the sewing room at the location shown.¹

¹Conversation, March 31, 1966, E. Derby and R. Reinish.

The following pages are duplicates of the inventory of 1919. Items marked with an "X" are in the possession of Sagamore Hill N.H.S. and are believed to be the originals. Items marked with an "O" are those for which a similar substitute has been obtained on the advise of Mrs Derby and Mr. A. Roosevelt.

(L)

NORTHWEST ROOM (Theodore Roosevelt Jr's Room)

FURNITURE

Folio 12

× Ash Wardrobe
Double door
Drawer in base

\$ 8.00

2

× Ash Towel Rack

1.00

0

2.00

(2)

NORTH MIDDLE ROOM (School Room)

FURNITURE

Folio 13

✕ Walnut Bookcase		
Double glass doors	\$ 10.00	5
Ash Wardrobe		
Double doors		
Drawer in base	8.00	5
Ash Chamber Suite		
Comprising -		
Three-quarter Bedstead, including		
Spring, Mattress and Bolster,		
Bureau and ✕ Washstand	25.00	25
✕ Small Walnut Side Table	2.00	1
✕ Mission Oak Rocker		
Wood seat	5.00	1

Folio 14

Brussels Carpet Rug		
Length 9 feet		
Width 9 feet	8.00	Not listed
✕ Navajo Blanket		
Gray ground		
Black and brown figures	10.00	10
Antique Shirvan Rug		
Blue, Old rose and black colors		
of conventional design		
Length 5 feet 8 inches		
Width 3 feet 3 inches	30.00	20
Antique Shirvan Prayer Rug		
(Bad repair)		
Length 4 feet 4 inches		
Width 3 feet 2 inches	15.00	3

113.00

(L)

HALL

PAINTINGS AND PRINTS

Folio 15

x Oil Painting		
"Mr. Roosevelt and Jos. Cannon"		
Signed at the lower left.		
H. G. Williamson		
Height 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches		
Width 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches	\$ 25.00	15
Pastel		
"Log Cabin"		
R. Swain Gifford	15.00	5
Oil Painting		
"Porto Marizio"		
Signed at lower left		
Gavolino Parese		
Length 56 inches		
Height 36 inches	100.00	25

Folio 16

x Oil Painting		
"Mother and Child at Prayer"		
Signed at lower left		
Mrs. Muller 1869		
Height 30 inches		
Width 25. inches	50.00	20
x Heliogrovurer		
"Frederick the Great"	5.00	1
Remarque Proof Etching		
"Columbus"		
By Fröcillon	20.00	5
Etching		
"The Fisherman"		
Brunet Debrames	3.00	1
x Print		
Jefferson Portraim	5.00	1
x Original Deed of Sagamore Hill		
Signed by Robert Cooper	100.00	50

323. 0

(L)

HALL, continued

FURNITURE

Folio 17

Walnut Side Table

\$ 3.00

x Three Strips Carpet
Rag and red monquette

5.00

(One strip of carpet is at Sagamore Hill NHS
- in poor condition)

8.00

File
O

SERVANTS QUARTERS

NORTHEAST ROOM (Cook's Room)

FURNITURE

Folio 18

● Painted Iron Bedstead Including Spring, Mattress and Pillow	\$10.00
○ Maple Bureau and Oak Washstand	5.00
× Rocker, Upholstered Chair and × Towel Rack	3.00
Small Mahogany Table Fluted legs	3.00
Small Carpet Runner	3.00
	<hr/>
	24.00

(L)

SOUTHEAST ROOM (Sewing Room)

PASTELS

Folio 19

x Pastel

"Mountains"

R. Swain Gifford

\$ 5.00

2

x Pastel

"Deer Head"

J. Cater Beard

5.00

5

10.00

(L)

SOUTHEAST ROOM, continued (Sewing Room)

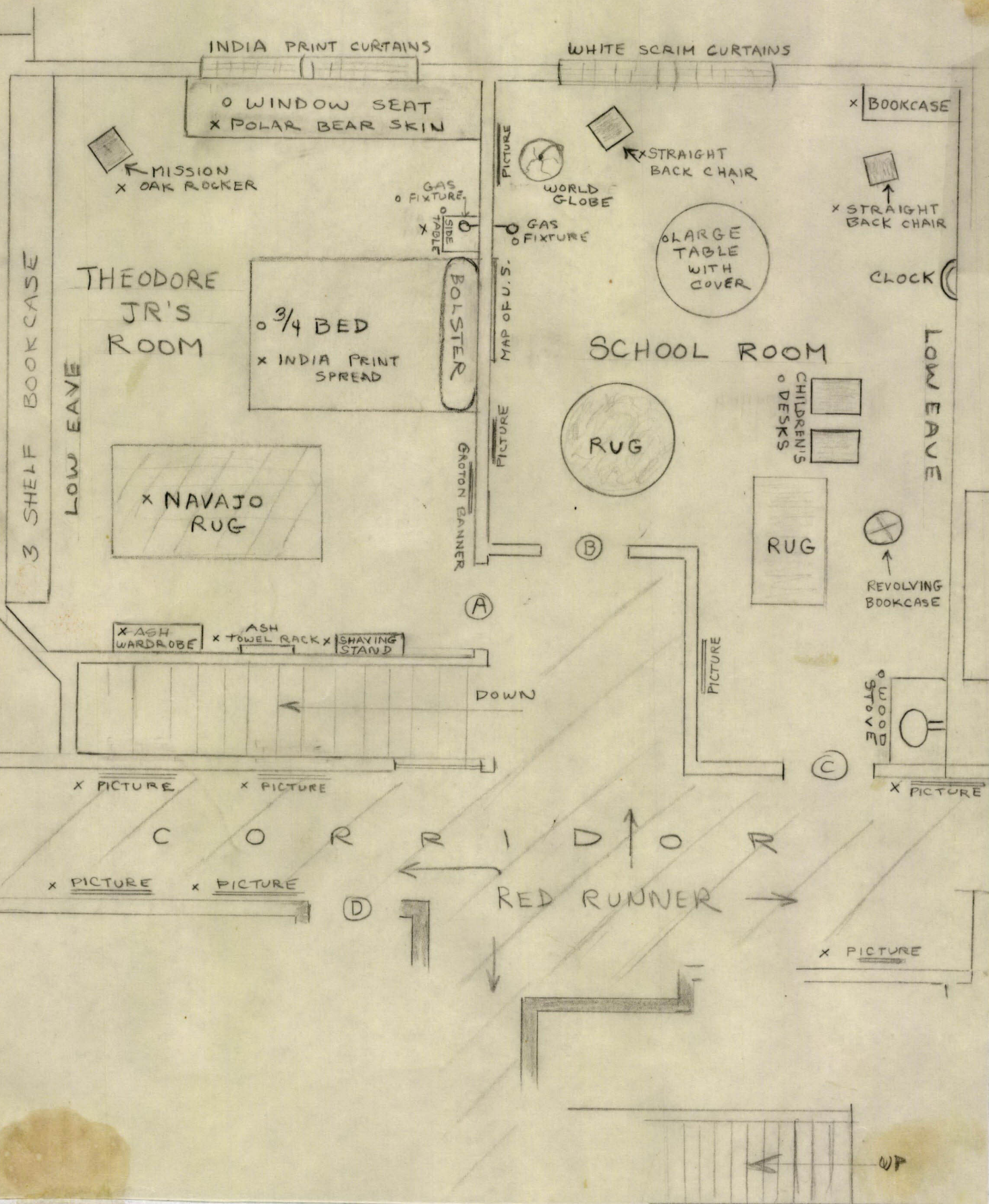
FURNITURE

Folio 20

x Walnut Night Stand Marble top	\$ 5.00
x Walnut Cane Seat Rocker	2.00
Oak Side Table	2.00
Contents of Four Rooms Including four ⁰⁰ Single Beds, x x Chairs, x Tables, Small Rugs	40.00
x Sewing Cabinet	49.00

Total 107

The following diagrams show the rooms as they will appear when refurnished. Items marked with an "X" are in the possession of Sagamore Hill N.H.S. and are believed to be the originals. Items marked with an "O" are those for which a similar substitute has been obtained on the advise of Mrs. Derby and Mr. A. Roosevelt.



C/N

R

DOWN

C O R R I D O R

RED RUNNER

x CEDAR CHEST

LINEN SHELVES +
DRAWERS BUILT IN

o BUREAU

MAID'S ROOM

MAID'S ROOM

STRAW MATTING
FLOOR COVERING

RUG

RUG

STRAW MATTING
FLOOR COVERING

o AFGHAN

o SINGLE
PAINTED
BEDSTEAD

o SINGLE
PAINTED
BEDSTEAD

o AFGHAN

o GAS FIXTURE

o GAS FIXTURE

x ROCKING
CHAIR

o ROCKING
CHAIR

WHITE SCRIM CURTAINS

WHITE SCRIM CURTAINS

BUREAU

CLOSET

(E)

(F)

(G)

(D)

(C)

3
G/N
✓

WHITE SCRIM CURTAINS

X ROCKING
CHAIR

O SINGLE
PAINTED
BEDSTEAD

MAHOGONY
TABLE

O GAS
FIXTURE

LOW EAVE

FLOOR COVERING
STRAW MATTING

UNUSED AREA
BENEATH EAVES

F.H.C.

DOWN

COOK'S ROOM

X OAK
WASHSTAND

TOWEL
RACK

O MAPLE
BUREAU

UPHOLSTERED
CHAIR

X PICTURE

X SEWING
CABINET

X PICTURE

O WIRE
FIGURE
O + DRESS

SEWING ROOM

O GAS
FIXTURE

TRUNK ROOM

TRUNKS

PICTURE

X ROCKING
CHAIR

LOW EAVE

X SEWING
BASKET

O SEWING
MACHINE

2-Way Memo

Subject: Furnishing Plan - Sagamore Hill

DATE OF MESSAGE

7/6/66

DATE OF REPLY

INSTRUCTIONS

Use routing symbols whenever possible.

SENDER:

Forward original and one copy.
Conserve space.

RECEIVER:

Reply below the message, keep one copy, return one copy.

To:
→

Horace Wilcox
Northeast Region

5027-101

- FOLD -

USE BRIEF, INFORMAL LANGUAGE

- FOLD -

are
Enclosed ~~1~~ original and 2 copies of furnishing plan for Sagamore Hill
Bob Rheinisch wanted forwarded to you.

Ray

D-6215

NORTHEAST REGION		Initial and Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reg. Director	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asst. to P.D. (PA)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fed'l & State Assis.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assoc. Reg. Director	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personnel	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Programs	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asst. Dir. <i>9/27/8</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inter. & V.I.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Main Office	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Res. Planning & VP	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Job Corps	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff Archaeologist	

From: Raymond L. Smith
New York City Group