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MASTER PLAN
FOR SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
VOLUME I

Master Plan Narrative

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August 1963

SCANNED

2/13/01

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MASTER PLAN
FOR SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
MISSION 66 Edition

Volume II

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Volume III

General Park Information

August 1963

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF
SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

* * * * *

The Service thus established shall

- . Promote and regulate the use of
- . The Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations hereinafter specified
- . By such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments and reservations

Which purpose is

- . To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein, and
- . To provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as shall
- . Leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

From an Act to Establish a National
Park Service. Approved August 25, 1916.

August 1963

THE PARK

Twenty-nine miles east of New York City in the gracious estate country of the north shore of Long Island lies the small village of Oyster Bay. A few miles east of the town, in an area where he had vacationed as a boy, young Theodore Roosevelt purchased 153 acres of land in 1880. Here, four years later, was to begin the construction of his home on the land that was, by then, known as Sagamore Hill.

Sagamore Hill was the permanent home of Theodore Roosevelt and his family from the time of its construction in 1884, when he was 26 years old, until his death in 1919. Sagamore continued to be the home of Mrs. Roosevelt and other members of the family until her death in 1948. During his 35 years at Sagamore Hill, Theodore Roosevelt went forth to serve his country in the New York Assembly, on the United States Civil Service Commission, as president of New York City's police board, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Army in the Spanish American War, as Governor of New York and, finally, as Vice-President and President of the United States. After the presidency, he stayed very much in the public eye during the Bull Moose campaign and during World War I; and, he was almost certain to be the Republican candidate for the presidency in 1920 had he lived.

It was at Sagamore that three of his children were born, where all six of them grew up, and it was here that TR led the children on hikes through his wooded acres or took them boating on the Sound. It was at Sagamore, too, that a continuous stream of dignitaries came to visit the ebullient Roosevelt, and for seven years it was the summer White House.

The rambling Victorian house set amongst the open fields and woods is the central focus of the area. Within the house, in its easy informality, are found the numerous mementos, souvenirs, gifts and commemorative objects that are so thoroughly emblematic of the vigor and energy of this unusual man. Here are found, amongst his large and widely scattered library, the abundant literary works of the naturalist, hunter, world traveler, historian, philosopher and statesman that was Theodore Roosevelt.

Sagamore Hill is one of three areas of the National Park System that Roosevelt lived in and called home. The brownstone house in New York City where he was born and where he spent 14 years of his life and his North Dakota ranch to which he made numerous pilgrimages are rich in association with Roosevelt, but Sagamore above all other places was his beloved home.

THE MISSION

...of Sagamore Hill National Historic

Site is to present the story of
Theodore Roosevelt and his family at
Sagamore Hill, related within the
context of the significant national
events associated with him.

...of the National Park Service

is to manage the Historic Site so
that it will fulfill its Mission
effectively and permanently.

Approved: _____

Assistant Director, Design and Construction Date

9/19/63

August 1963

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF
SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Chapter 1, Objectives and Policies
Significant Resources
Significant Values
Preservation & Use Policies
Guidelines

Prepared by: Donald W. Humphrey Date 8/13/63
Naturalist (Master Planner)

Recommended: Franklin R. Mullaly (by phone) Date 8/19/63
Superintendent

Recommended: (Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee Date AUG 22 1963
Regional Director, Northeast Region

APPROVED: [Signature] Date 9/19/63
Assistant Director, Design and Construction

August 1963

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF
SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

VOLUME I

Chapter 1, Objectives and Policies

SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

The significant resources of Sagamore Hill are composed of the house, its furnishings, the outbuildings, the grounds and the surrounding woodlands. These comprise the visible evidence of the historic essence which we are trying to recapture.

The house, an interesting example of Victorian architecture, tells us something of the age in which Theodore Roosevelt lived; signifying those Victorian virtues of "solidity, first of all, dignity, hospitality, comfort, the social stability of the owner, and permanence". But it is the furnishings, the hunting trophies, the mementos, gifts and other memorabilia within the house that gives Sagamore Hill its distinctive flavor and charm, for these objects have the ability - as few other things could - of giving an interesting and intimate insight into the many faceted - but always vigorous - life of Theodore Roosevelt.

The grounds and forests signify Roosevelt's love of space, beauty and nature and as the setting for his rambles and outdoor activities with his family, friends and the constant stream of notables that made the pilgrimage to Sagamore Hill, they complete the significant resources of the area.

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SIGNIFICANT VALUES

The resources of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site translated into human values, impart to the visitor the unusual variety and scope of the life of one of our great historic figures who, however, seems distinctly modern and timeless as great men always do.

Here, against the backdrop of his home and family life, the visitor will gain a heightened awareness of the remarkable life of this man, his family tragedies, his boundless energy, his remarkable history of public service, his inquiring mind, his fabulous energy, his love of home and family, his interest in clean government and in the history of man and his institutions, in his love of nature and the out-of-doors, in his concern for the conservation of natural resources, and a host of other things that made the man great.

GENERAL PRESERVATION AND USE POLICY

Public Law 87-547, signed July 25, 1962, authorized the establishment of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, placing an acreage limitation of 90 acres to be accepted by the Secretary as a donation from the Theodore Roosevelt Association. In addition \$500,000 was donated by the Association to the National Park Trust Fund Board "...for purpose of the two historic sites", (Sagamore Hill and Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace). The area was officially deeded to the United States on July 8, 1963.

Sagamore Hill had been operated from June 16, 1953 until its transfer to the Federal government by the Theodore Roosevelt Association as a house museum. This has included guided and self-guiding tours of the various rooms of the house; and several rooms on the third floor have been devoted to exhibits relating to members of the Roosevelt family. No particular developments have been undertaken to interpret the grounds other than a trail to the pet cemetery.

The manner in which Sagamore Hill has been maintained, refurbished and interpreted is a credit to the Association and its staff. Development has been limited to a county access road, parking area, canteen, gift shop, paths and modest landscape plantings. The ice house has been converted to a comfort station, and changes within the house include provision for administrative office space. Some of the outbuildings are used for purposes other than those for which they were originally built.

In planning for the preservation and use of Sagamore Hill, the National Park Service will restrict modern intrusive developments to the minimum needed to handle visitation efficiently in terms of road access, visitor parking, visitor orientation and comfort facilities, concessions and foot access. To the extent that these developments can be removed or screened from the historic scene, the Mission of the Service will be furthered.

serious question - whole property? restoration? any other property?
This emphasizes the importance of considering the acquisition of the W. Eulen Roosevelt property, adjacent to Sagamore Hill, as a site for park development. This would accord with the general preservation and use policy of preserving and/or restoring and reconstructing Sagamore Hill to approximate its condition during the historic period. *of additional lands*

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Interpretation of Sagamore Hill will be expanded to include not only the house but the grounds and, to make use of exhibits, audio-visual techniques and other interpretive methods as research warrants. Restoration of the grounds to their general appearance during the historic period will give greater validity to their interpretation.

The inclusion of Old Orchard in the lands deeded to the United States by the Theodore Roosevelt Association poses the problem of its use. The mansion and grounds of 3.86 acres were carved from that part of the Roosevelt estate containing the orchard. Old Orchard was built by Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., who was, in his own right, a person of considerable historic importance. The mansion has been unoccupied since 1960, but it is structurally sound and well maintained. It should be used for administrative and museum purposes. This would include storage of museum specimens and exhibits on the Roosevelt family such as are presently housed on the third floor of Sagamore Hill.

The concessions presently found at Sagamore Hill (a canteen and gift shop) serve an important function, and they should be maintained and operated by a non-profit organization such as the Theodore Roosevelt Association. They should, however, be removed from the present location as being inconsistent with the over-all preservation and use policy.

Sagamore Hill is a wood and brick structure susceptible to fire damage. In addition it contains priceless furnishings, objects and memorabilia that could not be replaced once lost, whether through fire, theft or any other cause. The mansion at Old Orchard and the existing or projected visitor and staff accommodations also require adequate fire protection as do the meadows and forests of Sagamore Hill. These factors indicate the necessity of a carefully conceived plan of fire and theft protection.

Continued study on boundary matters will be necessary: to determine how the "estate type" atmosphere of Sagamore Hill can be perpetuated; to decide if, or how much, extra land should be acquired to permit removal of present modern intrusive developments from the grounds of Sagamore Hill; and to make certain any inholdings within the present boundary are acquired. ✓ OK

August 1963

GUIDELINES

1. Sagamore Hill - the house, grounds and forest - shall be preserved or restored as nearly as possible as it was during the historic period, consistent with the needs of development, protection and visitor use.
2. The interpretive theme shall be the story of the life of Theodore Roosevelt and his family at Sagamore Hill.
3. Interpretation will be primarily as an exhibit - in place with preliminary orientation and background information at a visitor contact station supplemented by personal services, park literature, self-guiding trails and other pertinent interpretive methods, including museum treatment at Old Orchard.
4. An interpretive trail system, commemorative of Theodore Roosevelt's love of nature and his perambulations with his children and friends on the estate, shall be established.
5. Operation of the area to suggest the farming and outdoor activities Theodore Roosevelt engaged in shall be considered as part of the preservation and restoration complex.
6. Marking or partial or complete reconstruction of the stable, the lodge, and the barn; Mrs. Roosevelt's garden house; the garden and other missing structures and features shall be considered following adequate historical research.
7. Existing outbuildings, in place during the presidential years such as the ice house, shall be returned to their original use condition during that time.
8. Eventual relocation of the present necessary parking area and concession buildings shall be effected in connection with future grounds restoration.

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9. Sagamore Hill will be a day-use area with no provision for general camping or picnicking. Limited outdoor luncheon facilities will be provided, primarily for school groups.
10. Boy Scout camping in the woods of the estate (a traditional use during Theodore Roosevelt's time) will be continued at a controlled site but restricted primarily to those local groups that have used it in the past so as to prevent undue deterioration of the grounds.
11. The Boone and Crockett Club (founded by Theodore Roosevelt) shall continue to use the Gun Room at Sagamore Hill for their library, possessions and memorabilia under a documented cooperative agreement.
12. The Advisory Committee from the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association shall be consulted on matters relating to the preservation, development and management of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site in accordance with the Act.
13. A program of comprehensive research will be instituted which will make possible the recreation and interpretation of the way of life at Sagamore Hill. Special emphasis will be placed on an oral history project.
14. The program of cataloguing, storage and care of museum objects and historical records shall be continued and enlarged.
15. Old Orchard will be developed primarily for visitor use, including provision as practicable for museum exhibits, an audio-visual room, library and park offices, with use for quarters limited to the rear wing.
16. Adequate protection for the site shall be provided to guard against fire, theft and vandalism.
17. An admission charge will be made for entrance to the Site.
18. Housing for the staff will be provided as circumstances warrant.
19. The Site will function initially under published delegations of authority as a Group "A" organization.

August 1963

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF
SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Volume III, General Park Information
Section A, Park Origin

Prepared by:


Donald W. Humphrey
Naturalist (Master Planner)

Date

6/6/63

ACCEPTED BY: Franklin R. Mullaly (By Memo.)
Superintendent

Date 10-3-63

June 1963

Section A, Park Origin and Land Status

Following the death of Theodore Roosevelt in 1919, Mrs. Roosevelt continued to live at Sagamore Hill for nearly 30 years. After her passing, the house, its contents and the Roosevelt estate of 83 acres were purchased by the Roosevelt Memorial Association, now the Theodore Roosevelt Association. Since that time, the Association has placed asbestos shingles on the roof, installed a fire alarm system and modern heating plants, repainted, replastered and repapered the house and have generally done an excellent job. Operated as a house museum by the Association, the area was developed for public visitation by the construction of the present entrance road, parking field, canteen and souvenir shop.

In December of 1960, Mr. Oscar S. Straus, President of the Theodore Roosevelt Association wrote to Director Wirth asking for a discussion of the Association's turning over of Sagamore Hill and Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace to the National Park Service. Following various discussions and a field investigation report, the area was recommended for inclusion in the National Park System. Legislation was introduced which came to fruition during the 87th Congress and was signed into law by President Kennedy on July 25, 1962.

The legislation called for not more than 90 acres of land to be acquired by the Federal government by donation from Theodore Roosevelt Association. It further provided that "...the National Park Trust Fund Board may accept from the Theodore Roosevelt Association \$500,000 and such additional amounts as the Association may tender from time to time...", this money being used only for the purposes of the two historic sites established pursuant to this Act. However, nothing in the Act limits the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under other provisions of law to accept in the name of the United States donations of property.

Upon transfer of the above lands and money, the Secretary of the Interior is directed to establish Sagamore Hill and Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Sites. Establishment took place on

Included within the proposed boundaries is the Sagamore Hill Road, owned and maintained by Nassau County.

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF
SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Volume III, General Park Information
Section B, Vicinity Data

Prepared by: Donald W. Humphrey Date 6/6/63
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Superintendent

June 1963

Section B, Vicinity Data

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site lies in the incorporated town of Cove Neck, Nassau County, New York on the north shore of Long Island near its western end. Cove Neck is a completely residential, estate-class town. The nearest commercial facilities are at Oyster Bay, a distance of 2.8 miles to the west.

Sagamore Hill is 29 miles from New York City. Many of the visitors would approach the area from New York City and access is good via the Long Island Expressway. Visitor traffic would leave the expressway at the Hicksville interchange and proceed north on State 106 to Oyster Bay. The route from Oyster Bay over East Main Street and Cove Road is signed. Commercial transportation via bus and railway is available to Oyster Bay. Access by boat is also possible but not a practice.

Other Public Areas

The graves of Theodore and Mrs. Roosevelt are located in the Cove Neck Cemetery on the road between Sagamore Hill and Oyster Bay.

The Audubon Society has set aside a tract of land nearby as a nature sanctuary. Recreation facilities, private and public are varied and numerous on the western end of Long Island as one would expect from its proximity to New York City. No attempt is made here to enumerate them.

Cove Neck is located in an area of glacial drift and outwash north of the Harbor Hill moraine which traverses the north shore of Long Island in an east-west direction. The uneven and locally precipitous nature of this moraine has created an indented shoreline characterized by numerous coves and necks. The topography, plus these features and proximity to New York City early made this a favorite estate area for wealthy New Yorkers, first as a summer playground, later for year around homes.

June 1963

Aside from small public areas the land is nearly all private and is used primarily for residential purposes, although locally removal of sand and gravel occurs. Farming also is practiced locally but the important farming areas are on the flat outwash plains generally to the south and east.

June 1963

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF
SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Volume III, General Park Information
Section C, Public Use Data


Prepared by: Donald W. Humphrey Date 6/6/63
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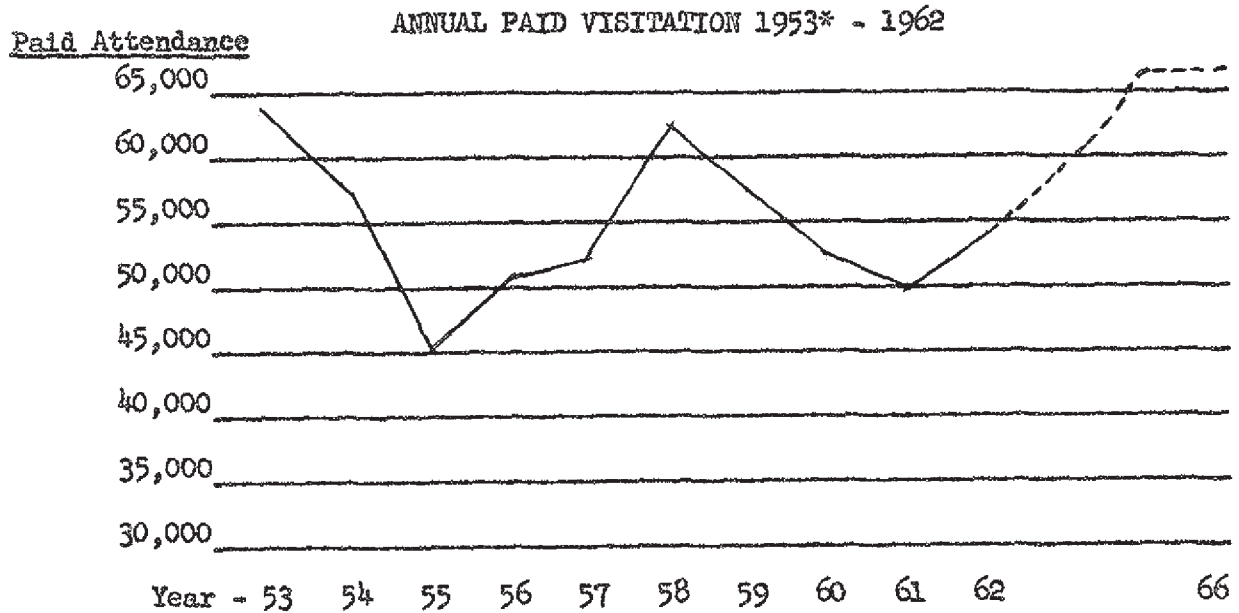
ACCEPTED BY: Franklin R. Mullaly (By Memo.) Date 10-3-63
Superintendent

June 1963

Section C, Public Use Data

Visitation at Sagamore Hill under the Theodore Roosevelt Association is tabulated only by paid attendance. Since there is no charge for children under 12 and since school groups comprise about 15% of the total visitation, it seems fair to assume that actual visitation is at least twice the paid attendance. Sagamore Hill opened on June 16, 1953 and since that time has had a total paid attendance of 547,946 through 1962. This is an average of 54,795 per year with no perceptible trends apparent. (See visitation graphs.)

June 1963

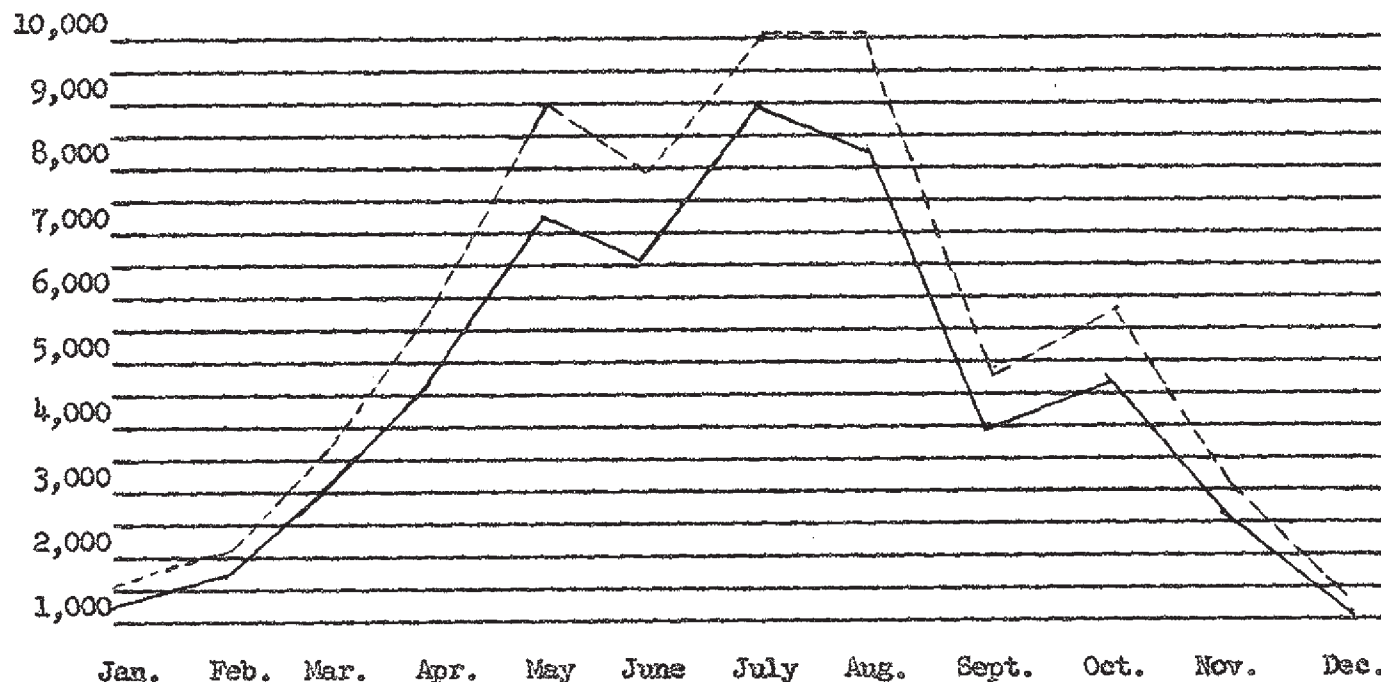


*Sagamore Hill opened to public on June 16, 1953.
(See G-14 for explanation.)

June 1963

Table - Statistics used in projecting 1966 monthly paid visitation are based on a projected annual paid visitation of 65,000 by 1966. This projection assumes the monthly visitation staying about the same with some increase in spring and fall tour groups. Total visitation would increase the spring and fall ratio because of the increase of non-paying school groups during these months.

Paid Attendance

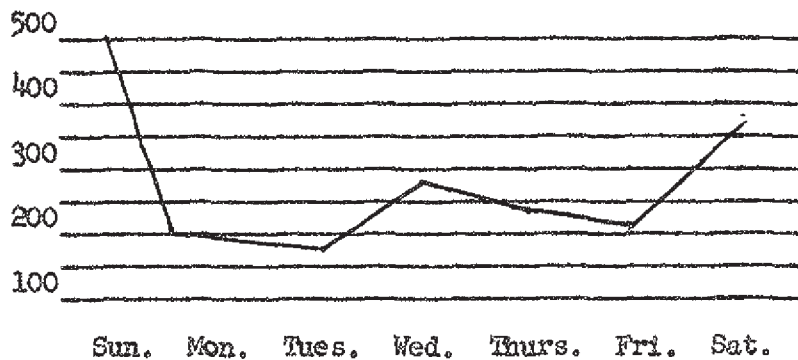


---Projected 1966 monthly paid visitation based on present paid attendance.

: ____ Paid attendance by month for 1962.

WEEKLY VISITATION* - August, 1962

Paid Attendance



*School groups in late spring and early fall cause
weekday increase.

Camping

Boy Scout camping in the wooded area of the Roosevelt estate has been a traditional use dating back to the time of Theodore Roosevelt. No facilities exist for camping. Annual Scout campers total about 375 and use is usually during the months of May, June, October and November.

Duration of Stay

Sagamore Hill is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except during winter (especially December and January) when the house is not open until 11:00 a.m. Visitation is heaviest in the afternoon during the winter.

Visitors to Sagamore Hill come expressly to view the area. It is not located on a main thoroughfare. It is a day use area with about an hour spent in the house and with additional time spent on the estate grounds. The visitation chart shows a peak in August with subordinate peaks in May and October. The first represents normal summer visitation, the latter represent school, and other tour groups.

Weekly visitation during the summer and probably during the winter show a predominance of weekend visitation. Weekday visitation increases with tour groups.

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF
SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Volume III, General Park Information
Section D, Natural History
and Historical Background


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Section D, Natural History

As an historic area, natural history is important primarily as it affects the historic theme. Sagamore Hill is located on a rolling and scenic morainal landscape overlooking Long Island Sound. The east end of the estate is wooded with deciduous trees representing the oak-chestnut forest type of which, of course, the chestnut is no longer represented.

These trees are large and the forest setting is attractive. Shrubs, herbs and flowering plants occur. Wildlife consists of forest birds of considerable variety both as residents and migrants, and water-fowl and shore birds are found along Cold Spring Harbor. Squirrels and cottontails occur and were hunted by Theodore Roosevelt as a boy. He was familiar with all of these features and led his children and guests on jaunts, afoot and on horseback; through the woods to the harbor. It is in this light that the natural history is significant.

History

History is the crux of Theodore Roosevelt National Historic Site. The visible evidences of historical importance are the Roosevelt House at Sagamore Hill, the furnishings, books and memorabilia within the house; the ice house, chicken coop, garden and other remaining features and structures of the presidential era, and the grounds and setting. Various structures of the historic era are now gone, principally among which was the stables.

Sagamore Hill was built by Theodore Roosevelt in 1884-85, and remained his permanent home until his death on January 6, 1919. From 1901 through 1909 Sagamore Hill was the Summer White House, and throughout Roosevelt's eventful life the house was a mecca for national and international figures from every walk of life. The house stands today little changed from the time a half-century ago when it was the home of a distinguished American and his devoted family.

Theodore Roosevelt knew the Oyster Bay countryside from boyhood. In 1874, when he was fifteen, his father established the family's summer

residence there. The boy spent long summer vacations exploring the fields and woodlands on Cove Neck, the peninsula just east of Oyster Bay, where he would one day build his home.

In 1880, on his twenty-second birthday, and four months after his graduation from Harvard, Roosevelt married Alice Lee. Two months later he acquired the first of three deeds to a total of 155 acres on Cove Neck. Later, he sold 28 acres to his older sister, Anna, and 32 acres to an aunt, keeping the balance of 95 acres.

Roosevelt did not immediately build a home on his newly-acquired estate. For the next several years he read for the law, published his first historical work, The Naval War of 1812, and entered the political arena as Republican State Assemblyman of the 21st district. At twenty-three he was the youngest member of that body.

By autumn of 1883, Roosevelt was ready to begin the construction of the home at Cove Neck. The first of the buildings, a lodge and a stable, were to be completed by February 1, 1884. But, before the final agreement for the construction of the main house was signed tragedy struck, Theodore's wife died, only hours after the birth of their first child, a daughter. Earlier that same day, and in the same house, Roosevelt's mother had died.

Determined that his child, Alice, should have a suitable home Roosevelt signed a contract for construction of the main house at Cove Neck. While the house was under construction, its young owner was spending most of his time in the Badlands of the Little Missouri, working the cattle ranch he had established there.

When the young stockman came back East to support the Republican cause in the election of 1884 the house at Cove Neck was not finished. After Cleveland's Democratic victory at the polls in November, Theodore was glad enough to get away to his frontier home, although by Christmas he was back in New York for a hectic round of politics and some intensive writing before he headed West again in April. By summer he was back in New York and this time he returned to a new home of his own. In late June 1885, Roosevelt moved into the Cove Neck house for the first time.

The house was a solidly-built Victorian structure of frame and brick, the wood siding on the upper floors a mustard color, the bricks red and the trim green. There was room for a large family here, with ten bedrooms on the second floor and two more, in addition to the maids' rooms, on the third. If the house was not a beautiful one, it was roomy, comfortable, and well built.

In late August, with sister Anna and little Alice comfortably settled at Cove Neck, Roosevelt went back to the Badlands for less than a month. He was soon back in New York where he volunteered his services in the gubernatorial contest then getting under way. His political activities did not prevent him from enjoying to the fullest his first autumn in the new home at Cove Neck. Polo and hunting to hounds gave him the action his restless body demanded, and he counted a broken arm a small price for the pleasure he took in "Frank", his jumper. From time to time in this fall of 1885, he was seeing Edith Kermit Carow, whom he had known from his childhood. In November they were secretly engaged but set no definite marriage date. With Edith preparing for a voyage to Europe and Roosevelt's departure for the Badlands in the spring of 1886 they were not to meet again for many months.

Roosevelt spent the spring and summer in the Badlands and returned East in October. As he returned East from this trip an era in his life was ending. His western days were over save for occasional hunting visits to the frontier home where he had acquired so much of the outlook and character which would become increasingly evident in the years of his maturity.

Following his unsuccessful campaign for the mayoralty of New York in the fall of 1886, Roosevelt went to England. In London, on December 2, 1886, he married Edith Carow. In the spring of 1887 the couple arrived at Sagamore Hill. Here, except for absences imposed by his public career, the Roosevelts spent the rest of their lives. For two years after his return to Sagamore Hill Roosevelt busied himself in writing and in playing host to the scores of visitors from every walk of life who were attracted to the young squire of Sagamore Hill.

The life of a country gentleman did not last long, for in 1889 Roosevelt was named a member of the United States Civil Service Commission, the first major step in a life of distinguished public service. Throughout his career--as President of the Police Commission of the City of New York, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, as Lieutenant Colonel of the famed Rough Riders, as Governor of New York, as Vice President, and as Chief Executive, Sagamore Hill was the home to which TR always returned. It was on the wide piazza of Sagamore Hill that Roosevelt was formally notified of his nominations as Governor of New York in 1898, as Vice President in 1900, and as President in 1904. Of Sagamore Hill, Roosevelt, in 1906, wrote to his daughter Ethel:

After all, fond as I am of the White House and much though I have appreciated these years in it, there isn't any place in the world like home--Sagamore Hill, where things are our own, with our own associations, and where it is real country.

At Sagamore Hill were born three Roosevelt children of his second marriage: Theodore, Jr., Kermit, and Ethel. The younger sons, Archibald and Quentin, were born in Washington.

It was as the Summer White House that Sagamore Hill became best known to the American people. The doings of the Roosevelts and their kin, and the comings and goings of national and international figures filled reams of copy filed by the correspondents who maintained a summer vigil at Sagamore Hill. The President himself could frequently be seen joining the children in their games or taking the boys for a hike or a swim, chopping wood, riding horseback, or striding across the fields and through the woods he loved. Occasionally there would be a mournful procession of children, led by the President and Mrs. Roosevelt, to the small animal cemetery to lay away a family pet.

Not only was Sagamore Hill the center of the day-by-day administration of the country's affairs during the summer, but it had more than its share of dramatic events of national and international importance. One was on the August day in 1905 when Roosevelt met separately the envoys of warring Russia and Japan in the library at Sagamore Hill, and then brought them face-to-face to inaugurate the conference that ended in the Treaty of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on September 5, 1905.

With Roosevelt's retirement from office, and when his campaigning days were over, Sagamore Hill became more than ever the sanctuary of the devoted family. Even out of office Colonel Roosevelt held a high place in the hearts and councils of his countrymen. From Sagamore Hill, in the twilight of his life, he pressed for American preparedness in the world conflict that had broken out in the summer of 1914. When America did go in, Roosevelt saw his four sons go to the front while he himself went to Washington to rouse the nation for the task ahead.

The war brought Roosevelt his greatest personal tragedy when his young son Quentin, an airman, crashed to his death behind German lines. The blow of Quentin's death, added to infirm health brought on by a near brush with death in his expedition to Brazil in the winter of 1913-14, was taking a heavy toll of the once-robust Teddy. Even then he was considered by many to be the certain Republican candidate, and inevitable victor, in the 1920 election. Death decreed otherwise. On January 6, 1919, Roosevelt died peacefully in his sleep at the age of sixty.

Archeology

No important archeological remains of the prehistoric or aboriginal eras are known to occur. Archeology is of importance, however, in ascertaining the location of certain structures of the historic period.

Status of Research

A good deal of research has been done on the life of Theodore Roosevelt, and much is known of his life at Sagamore Hill. This is so because of the comparative recency of his life and because of the numerous documentary devices that were in use by the time of his life. Photographs, movies, transcripts of records, deeds, etc., etc., make possible very detailed research.

In spite of the above, much research is needed to properly interpret the area. We need to know the arrangement and content of the various rooms. We need to know more about TR's activities at Sagamore. We need to know the location, shape and purpose of various outbuildings and features now altered or destroyed. All these and others are necessary to assure the best possible job of interpretation.

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF
SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Volume III, General Park Information
Section E, Protection

Prepared by: Donald W. Humphrey Date 6/6/63
Naturalist (Master Planner)

ACCEPTED BY: Franklin R. Mullaly (By Memo.) Date 10-3-63
Superintendent

June 1963

Section E, Protection

Vegetative Cover

The grounds of Sagamore Hill are in meadows, lawns and forest. The house itself is surrounded by landscaped lawns, set in meadows with woods primarily in the Smith's Field area and at the eastern end of the property. The forest is deciduous and composed of several species of which various oaks are the most important.

Forest Fire Control

Forest fires are a danger usually only during the dry spring period, or possibly in the fall, when leaves are dry. No fires have occurred during the ten years the area has been administered by the Theodore Roosevelt Association.

Building Fire Control

Building fire protection is provided for by an alarm system installed by the Great American Fire Insurance Company. A pump house and an 100,000 gallon storage tank can supply water at the rate of 500 gallon per minute. In case of emergency, there is direct contact with the local fire departments through the fire protection system.

Forest Insects and Diseases

The above are not known to present any problems at the present.

Grazing and Browsing Control

These are not pertinent at present and would not be unless milk cows or other domestic stock are introduced into the interpretive program. Roosevelt had several cows at Sagamore Hill.

Soil and Moisture Conservation

This is not generally a problem and might be in the future only in connection with trail construction and Boy Scout Camping. The latter is practiced at the crest of a hill and has resulted in denudation of understory vegetation. Correction would be in terms of administrative and developmental decisions.

Other Vegetation Protection or Related Conservation

In restoring the grounds to the approximate state of the presidential years will require removal of certain interim landscaping developments which are foreign to the Roosevelt era.

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF
SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Volume III, General Park Information
Section F, Concessions and Other Agencies


Prepared by: Donald W. Humphrey Date 6/6/63
Naturalist (Master Planner)

ACCEPTED BY: Franklin R. Mullaly (By Memo.) Date 10-3-63
Superintendent

Section F, Concessions and Other Agencies

Concessions

The Theodore Roosevelt Association, a non-profit organization, presently runs a small canteen and souvenir shop. These are the only concessions. The canteen serves sandwiches and light snacks only. Picnic tables are supplied adjacent to - and for the use of - patrons of the canteen.

Services Provided Outside of Park

All other visitor services are provided outside of the park. Stores and cafes occur in Oyster Bay. Overnight accommodations are found in several places in the general vicinity.