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CRBIB# 000477
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HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY REPORT, PART I:
FOR THE TOOL HOUSE AT THE VANDERBILT
MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

MAY, 1963

ROOSEVELT-VANDERBILT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES
MIDT PARK, N.Y.

H30

May 7, 1963

DIVISION OF HISTORY
N.P.S.
FILE COPY

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt

Subject: ✓ Historic Structures Report, Part I. Tool House,
(Bldg. No.4) Vanderbilt

Reference is made to Regional Director Lee's memorandum of April 29, 1963 regarding the above subject.

The original Report was submitted January 19, 1960 and subsequently the Development Outline was revised to include the conversion of this structure into quarters. It is now carried as a live item at an estimated cost of \$9,200.

Also, the rehabilitation and conversion to quarters of this structure is in top priority as a Youth Conservation Corps. project. The proposed work on this structure should provide training in several skills. We are hopeful that we can accomplish this project in this manner at an early date. However, if we are not able to do it by this means, we will then request funds with which to accomplish this project at the earliest date possible.

As we view this situation, we can at the same time preserve an important part of the historic scene and provide another set of desperately needed quarters. We cannot too much longer let these historic structures stand without adequate preservation. We stand ready, if funds and technical assistance are made available to us, to begin this project immediately.

We are returning your bound copy of the subject Report with four (4) copies of the Architectural Data Section, the latter for your distribution.

Benjamin H. Davis
Superintendent

Enclosures

cc: 



IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

April 29, 1963

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	Act.	Info.
Superintendent	5/7	BRO
Administrative Asst.	5/2	
Historian		
Supv. Park Ranger		
Maintenance		
Museum Curator		

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt
From: Regional Director
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Tool House,
(Building No. 4), Vanderbilt Mansion

This is in reference to an Historic Structures Report, Part I for the conversion of the Tool House (Building No. 4), Vanderbilt, which was originally submitted to this office by memorandum dated January 19, 1960. The report as submitted contained the usual Administrative and Historical Data Sections, but no Architectural Data Section.

The report was approved by the Washington Office; approval of this office was deferred pending preparation of the Architectural Data Section referred to above, and no comments were received from EODC. An Architectural Data Section was prepared by Regional Architect Coryell, but was withheld from distribution pending a meeting with Superintendent Atkinson.

Because of the time which has elapsed, we are returning to you all copies of the report including Mr. Coryell's Architectural Section for your file in the event you do not favor this project, or for re-submission to this office with such revision as you may wish to make.

Regional Director

Enclosures

cc:
Chief, EODC



IN REPLY REFER TO
H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

April 4, 1960

APR 6 1960

	Act.	Info.
Superintendent	4/6	4/6
Administrative Asst.	4/6	4/6
Historian	4/7	4/7
Supv. Park Ranger		
Maintenance Supv.		
Museum Curator		

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I - Tool House
(Building No. 4), Architectural Data Section -
Vanderbilt Mansion NHS

We note that to date the subject report has been approved by the Washington Office, with no comment from the EODC.

To reach a decision on the suitability of the structure for employee quarters, we feel that an Architectural Data Section, Part I, would be helpful. This would show the present condition of the building and how it might be altered for residential use. Since Regional Architect Coryell is familiar with the Tool House, we shall be glad to have him prepare the Architectural Section, Part I, if agreeable to the EODC.

In the meantime, we suggest deferring final approval of the report until this data section has been prepared.

Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites
Hyde Park, New York

August 13, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHSs

Subject: Request for an Architectural Study of Structure No. 20
(Duplex Quarters), Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt

We are submitting the Historical Data Section of the Historic Structures Report for Mr. Coryell's information regarding the proposed architectural study of this structure.

The information regarding this structure is rather meager, consisting mainly of references to maintenance work on the completed structure. Perhaps the architectural study will reveal additional information regarding it.

Please schedule Mr. Coryell for this project and we will make whatever arrangements here that will be necessary.

Robert H. Atkinson
Superintendent

Attachments

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H30-

HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY REPORT

PART I

for the

TOOL HOUSE

at the

VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Hyde Park, New York

ARCHITECTURAL DATA

A. GENERAL

Building No. 4, Tool House, is located at the north end of the Vanderbilt Garden approximately 800 feet south of the Mansion. It was designed in 1874 by two Boston Architects, John H. Sturges and Charles Brigham. It was constructed in 1875 for Mr. Walter P. Langdon, Jr., in conjunction with the gardener's cottage and greenhouse which connected the two buildings.

Further detailed information on the construction of the building is contained in the foregoing Historical Data Section.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRUCTURE

The Tool House is a small two-story brick and frame building on stone foundation containing two rooms on the first floor and one large room on the second floor. Entrance to second floor is by outside stairs.

The basement with a concrete floor is on two levels. Upper level approximately 8'-6" below the first floor contains one storage room. Lower level is approximately 13'-6" below the first floor and contains two old coal bunker, an ash room and former boiler room. A portion of the boiler room extends approximately 8'-8" beyond the south wall of the pottery room and is covered with a concrete slab. This was

the main boiler room for supplying heat to the Tool House, Gardener's Cottage, Greenhouse and two Palm Houses, originally located south of the Tool House.

C. PRESENT CONDITION OF FABRIC

General condition of this structure is good. Part of the first floor framing will require repairs as will the wood flooring. Stairs to the basement are in poor condition and replacement is necessary to properly maintain the structure. Stairs to the second floor are in excellent condition.

Interior finish is in fair condition.

Exterior brick and stonework is in good condition. Several small wall cracks will require raking and painting. Roof is in fair condition, but can be made weathertight at a reasonable cost.

D. ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATION REQUIRED

As far as can be determined from historical data and previous architectural study, the entire structural system, foundations and wall finishes are original. Deterioration in this structure has been minimum during the past 85 years.

If recommendations to convert this structure into quarters are made, close supervision of removal of interior finish will be exercised. In this manner further architectural investigation will be made to ensure that all details of original construction will be retained.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this building be remodeled and converted to an employee residence. To accomplish this, interior modernization will be necessary. Existing storage cabinets will be removed. All work will be done with the least change possible to the original fabric.

The size of the structure does not lend itself to quarters for family living. It will be adequate for a married couple or several single seasonal rangers.

Present stairs to the second floor may be utilized by providing an opening in the south wall adjacent to steps. Should this prove objectionable, reworking to keep the stair totally inside is a relatively simple matter.

A. HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT - PART I

5. Administrative Data

a. Name and Number of Building

Tool House, Building N o. 4, located at
Coordinates D-5 on Dwg. No. NNS-WH-2004,
Historical Base Map, Part of the Master
Plan, Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic
Site.

b. Proposed Use of Structure and Justification
for Use as Shown in MISSION 66 or the Master
Plan Development Outling.

It is proposed to rehabilitate the Tool
House and to convert it into quarters.

c. Provisions for Operating the Building, Funds
Programmed for Refurnishing, or Cooperative
Agreements Executed or Proposed for Furnishing
and Operating the Building.

Operated as quarters, income from rentals
will provide for its maintenance.

d. Preliminary Estimate of Cost for Rehabili-
tating the Structure and Grounds.

\$7,5000.

6. Historical Data

The Tool House was designed in 1874 by two Boston architects, John H. Sturgis and Charles Brigham for Walter Langdon, Jr., owner of the estate from 1840 until 1875.¹ The building was erected the following year, according to the following account:

The Langdon Homestead. Walter Langdon, Esq., is making extensive improvements in the old Langdon Homestead, at Hyde Park, Dutchess County. In addition is being built to his property, the gardener's cottage and the boiler room / Tool House from which the graperies is heated.

The Tool House was constructed in conjunction with the Gardener's Cottage and with the greenhouse which connected the two buildings.³ The boiler in the basement also furnished heat to the two palm houses that stood just south of the Tool House.

In 1940 when the National Park Service assumed the administration of the Vanderbilt Site the greenhouse, or Carnation House, was still standing. This greenhouse was removed in 1954 because it had become a menace to the safety

¹ The National Park Service has these plans dated December 9, 1874.

² Draxton's Scrapbook, Vol. 1, p. 143, Oct. 2, 1875.

³ Original Plans in possession of the National Park Service.

4

of visitors and employees.

That year (1940) it was reported that the Tool House, in addition to serving the functions implied by its name, also provided a tonable room upstairs to supplement the space available in the Gardener's Cottage.⁵

The Tool House, in July 1940, received the attention of Roy E. Appleson, Regional Historian, Region One who reported that it could be converted into a small residence or quarters for a ranger.⁶

⁴ Superintendent's Narrative Report for January 1939.

⁵ Emerson, Ralph W., "Report to the Regional Architect, Region One." September 20, 1940.

⁶ Appleson, Roy E., Taken from his report on his visit to the Vanderbilt Mansion and in July 1940.



View of South Elevation

Tool House

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

Copies of Report forwarded included a photograph of the Power House showing the condition of the roof. Insufficient copies for use here.

Copies of Report forwarded included a photograph of the Power House and surroundings. Did not have sufficient copies for use here.

Historical
p. 3
11-1

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY REPORT

PART I

for the

TRAIL HOUSE

at the

VAUGHANVILLE MANOR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Hyde Park, New York

ARCHITECTURAL DATA

A. GENERAL

Building No. 4, Tool House, is located at the north end of the Vanderbilt Garden approximately 800 feet south of the Mansion. It was designed in 1874 by two Boston Architects, John H. Sturges and Charles Brigham. It was constructed in 1875 for Mr. Walter P. Langdon, Jr., in conjunction with the gardener's cottage and greenhouse which connected the two buildings.

Further detailed information on the construction of the building is contained in the foregoing Historical Data Section.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRUCTURE

The Tool House is a small two-story brick and frame building on stone foundation containing two rooms on the first floor and one large room on the second floor. Entrance to second floor is by outside stairs.

The basement with a concrete floor is on two levels. Upper level approximately 8'-6" below the first floor contains one storage room. Lower level is approximately 13'-6" below the first floor and contains two old coal bunker, an ash room and former boiler room. A portion of the boiler room extends approximately 6'-8" beyond the south wall of the pottery room and is covered with a concrete slab. This was

the main boiler room for supplying heat to the Tool House, Gardener's Cottage, Greenhouse and two Palm Houses, originally located south of the Tool House.

C. PRESENT CONDITION OF BUILDING

General condition of this structure is good. Part of the first floor framing will require repairs as will the wood flooring. Stairs to the basement are in poor condition and replacement is necessary to properly maintain the structure. Stairs to the second floor are in excellent condition.

Interior finish is in fair condition.

Exterior brick and stonework is in good condition. Several small wall cracks will require raking and painting. Roof is in fair condition, but can be made weathertight at a reasonable cost.

D. ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATION REQUIRED

As far as can be determined from historical data and previous architectural study, the entire structural system, foundations and wall finishes are original. Deterioration in this structure has been minimum during the past 85 years.

If recommendations to convert this structure into quarters are made, close supervision of removal of interior finish will be exercised. In this manner further architectural investigation will be made to ensure that all details of original construction will be retained.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this building be remodeled and converted to an employee residence. To accomplish this, interior modernization will be necessary. Existing storage cabinets will be removed. All work will be done with the least change possible to the original fabric.

The size of the structure does not lend itself to quarters for family living. It will be adequate for a married couple or several single seasonal rangers.

Present stairs to the second floor may be utilized by providing an opening in the south wall adjacent to steps. Should this prove objectionable reworking to keep the stair totally inside is a relatively simple matter.

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the main boiler room for supplying heat to the Tool House, Gardener's Cottage, Greenhouse and two Palm Houses, originally located south of the Tool House.

C. PRESENT CONDITION OF FABRIC

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E. MODERNIZATION

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APPROVAL SHEET

Recommended _____
Director

Recommended _____
Regional Director

Recommended _____
Chief, BOLD

Approved _____
Superintendent

A. HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT - PART I

5. Administrative Data

a. Name and Number of Building

Tool House, Building N o. 4, located at
Coordinates D-5 on Dwg. No. NIS-WH-2004,
Historical Base Map, Part of the Master
Plan, Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic
Site.

b. Proposed Use of Structure and Justification
for Use as Shown in NISBON 66 or the Master
Plan Development Outline.

It is proposed to rehabilitate the Tool
House and to convert it into quarters.

c. Provisions for Operating the Building, Funds
Programmed for Refurnishing, or Cooperative
Agreements Executed or Proposed for Furnishing
and Operating the Building.

Operated as quarters, income from rentals
will provide for its maintenance.

d. Preliminary Estimate of Cost for Rehabili-
tating the Structure and Grounds.

\$7,5000.

6. Historical Data

The Tool House was designed in 1874 by two Boston architects, John H. Sturgis and Charles Brigham for Walter Langdon, Jr., owner of the¹ estate from 1840 until 1895. The building was erected the following year, according to the following account:

The Langdon Homestead. Walter Langdon, Esq., is making extensive improvements in the old Langdon homestead, at Hyde Park, Dutchess County. An addition is being built to hisinery, the gardener's cottage and the boiler room / Tool House² from which theinery is headed.

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In 1940 when the National Park Service assumed the administration of the Vanderbilt Site the greenhouse, or Carnation House, was still standing. This greenhouse was removed in 1954 because it had become a menace to the safety

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² Draman's Scrapbook, Vol. 1, p. 143, Oct. 2, 1875.

³ Original Plans in possession of the National Park Service.

⁴
of visitors and employees.

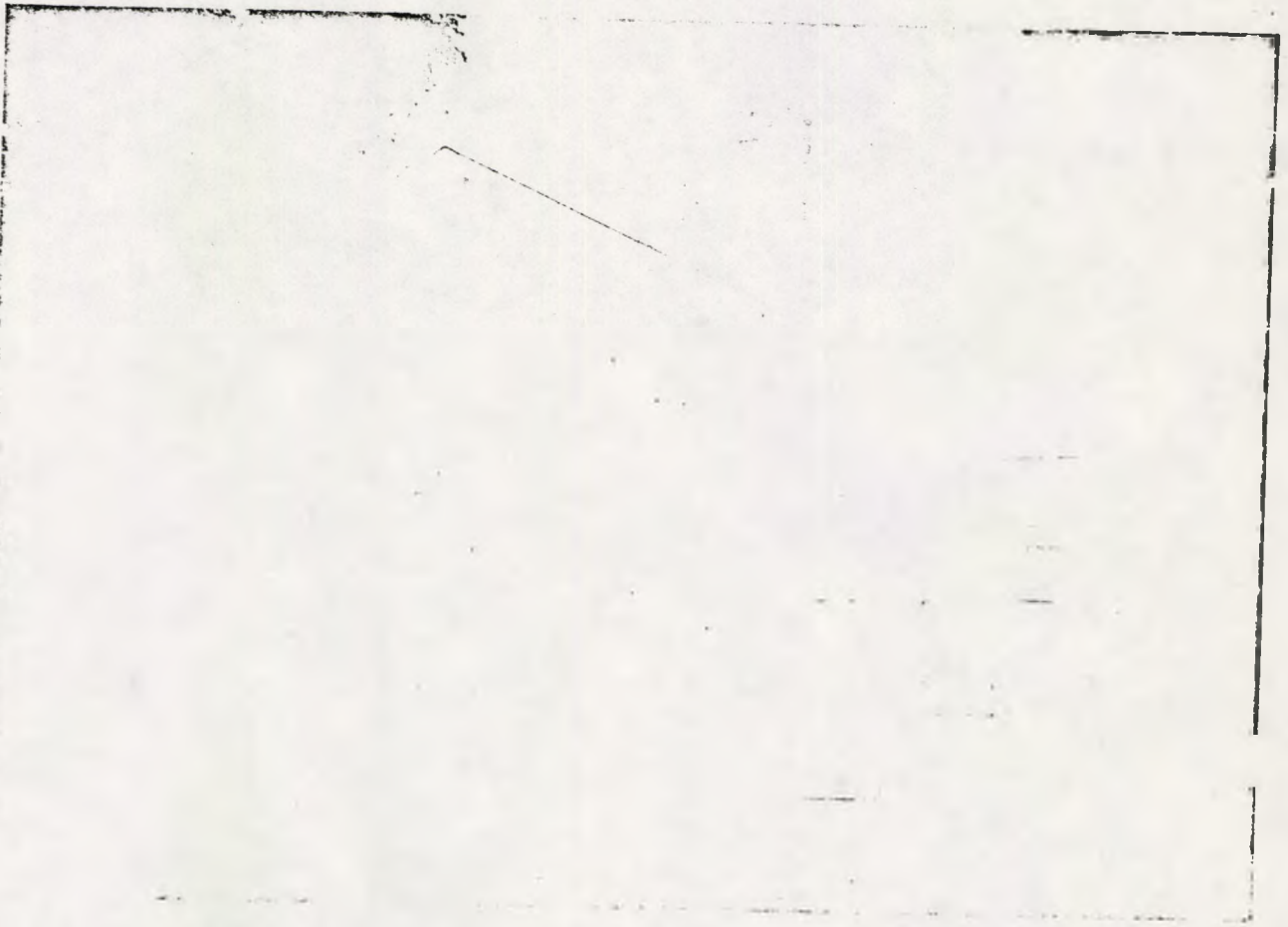
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The Tool House, in July 1940, received the attention of Roy E. Appleson, Regional Historian, Region One who reported that it could be converted into a small residence or quarters for a ranger.⁶

⁴ Superintendent's Narrative Report for January 1954.

⁵ Emerson, Ralph W., "Report to the Regional Architect, Region One." September 25, 1940.

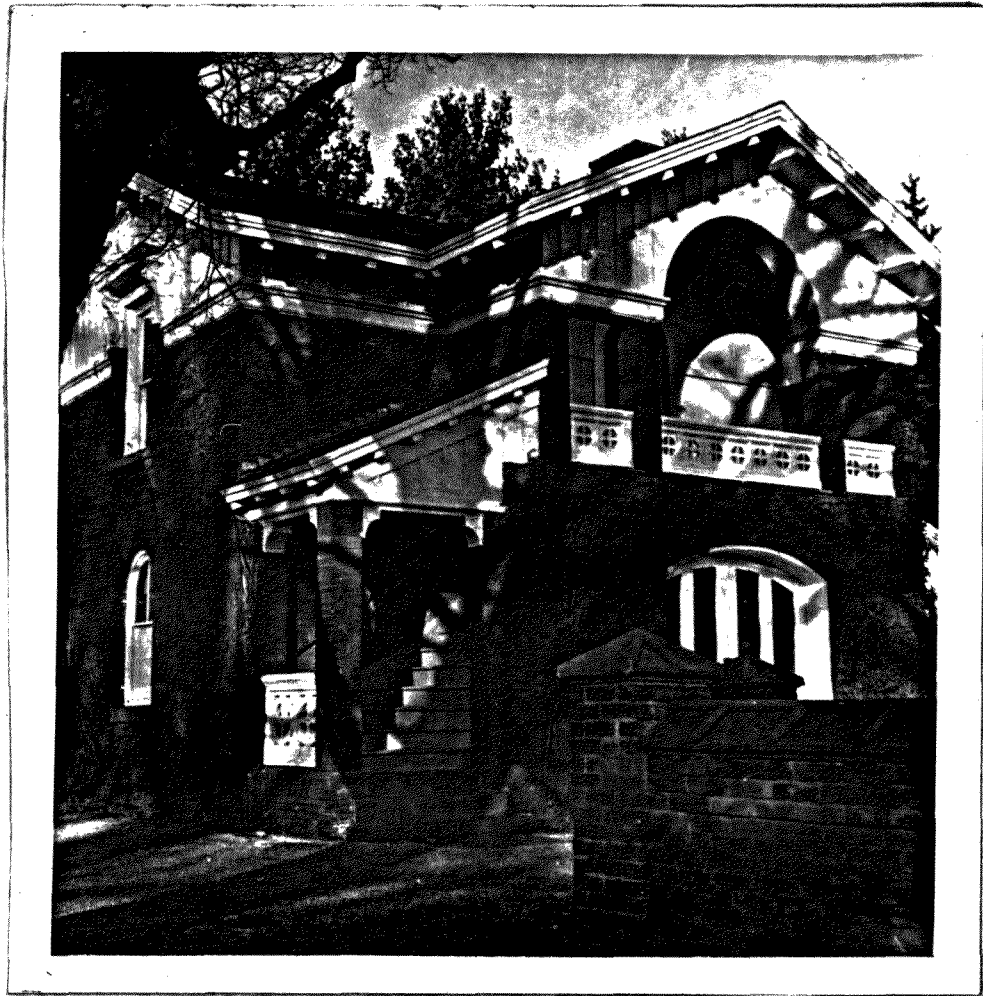
⁶ Appleson, Roy E., Taken from his report on his visit to the Vanderbilt Mansion NHS in July 1940.



View of South Mountain

East side

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site



View of Southwest Elevation

Tool House

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

APPROVAL SHEET

Recommended

Director

Recommended

Regional Director

Recommended

Chief, EDDC

Approved

Superintendent