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Memorandum

To: Chief, EODC  
From: <sup>Acting</sup> Regional Director

Subject: Historical Base Maps - Vanderbilt

Some time ago we were reminded that Roosevelt-Vanderbilt, in a memorandum of February 25, 1957 called your attention to the fact that Master Plan Drawings NHS VM 2007 (The Mansion - First Floor) and NHS VM 2008 (The Mansion - Second Floor) were inaccurate and should be redrawn to reflect changes made during construction and the years subsequent. Documentation by the Park Historian Snell accompanied the memorandum cited, and recommended revision on the basis of measured drawing of the Mansion made in 1942 (Drawing NHS VM 2015). The measured drawings recommended are understood to be in your office. We believe it not necessary to reproduce those sheets showing house elevations, but we do think it would be useful to reproduce those sheets showing floor plans. We would appreciate your Office undertaking this project at your earliest convenience.

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer

Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachment

Copy to: Director w/c of attachment.

Barnes/bg

General  
Daily  
Area

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site  
(Park or Office)

FILE NUMBER  
OR SUBJECT: D18

5. DOCUMENTATION OF HISTORICAL BASE MAP 1957 (Feb. 8--36 pp.)
6. DOCUMENTATION OF VANDERBILT MANSION FLOOR PLANS (Feb. 28--24 pp.)  
1957



PLEASE RETURN THIS FILE PROMPTLY TO

(Activity)

IMPORTANT

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Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites  
Hyde Park, N.Y.

H2215

June 26, 1961

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five  
From: Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt  
Subject: Historical Base Maps - Vanderbilt

We are transmitting in quadruplicate the 1957 documentation of the Vanderbilt Historical Base Map and the Mansion Floor Plans as requested by Assistant Regional Director Palmer in his memorandum of June 1, 1961.

(Sgd) ROBERT H. ATKINSON

Robert H. Atkinson  
Superintendent

In duplicate

Attachments (4)

DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE - CONTENTS

VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

February 1957

DOCUMENTATION OF HISTORICAL BASE MAP (36 pages) Date 2/3/57

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MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE

VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

DOCUMENTATION OF HISTORICAL BASE MAP

Drawing No. NMS-VH - 2004 Revised

Supplement to the Interpretation Section

Prepared by

Charles W. Snell, Supervisory Park Historian, assisted  
by Historians Edwin C. Dinneen and Mary B. Weatherwax

Dated: February 8, 1957

(1) Basic Data

The Historical Base Map for Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site delineates the area as of July 16, 1940, the date when the National Park Service took possession of the estate and before the Service made any alterations to the Site. The map thus presents the historic scene (with the exception of the tennis court) as it was at the time of Frederick W. Vanderbilt's death on June 29, 1938,

The portion of the Historical Base Map delineating the National Park Service section of the original Vanderbilt estate, that portion located on the west side of the Albany Post Road, is based on the following primary maps:

"Map of the Western Portion of the Estate Belonging to F. W. Vanderbilt Esq. Situate in the Town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, State of New York. Made under the direction of Thomas H. Howard, Esq. by Owen Morris, Surveyor, 1898." This is a detailed topographic map of the 153 acres then comprising that section of the estate.

"Plan of Torham, Estate of the Late Samuel B. Sexton, near Hyde Park, Dutchess County, N. Y., Containing 64.22 acres to High Water Line, exclusive of Highway and Railroad. By Benjamin Brevoort, Civil Engineer, 54 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, N. Y." Map undated but must have been made between 1903 and 1905. This is a detailed topographic map of the Vanderbilt estate north of the pavilion and west of the Albany Post Road.

"United State Geological Survey, Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, Hyde Park, New York," 1946.

The portion of the Historical Base Map delineating the section of the original Vanderbilt estate that is located east of the Albany Post Road (which is not in National Park Service ownership) is based on the following maps:

"Map of the Eastern Portion of the Estate Belonging to F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq. Situate in the Town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, State of New York, Made under the direction of Thomas H. Howard, Esq. By Owen Morris, Surveyor, 1898." This is a huge topographical map of the farm section of the estate that then consisted of 459 acres.

"Fairchild aerial photographic survey maps," made in 1935 and 1937.

Remarks: The eastern portion of the estate, with its farm buildings, fields, roads, etc., is based almost entirely on the 1898 map as there are no modern surveys available to show the changes that occurred in this section from 1898 to 1938. The only change made from the 1898 map, based on the aerial surveys, has been the straightening the road opposite the North Gate and moving the farm barns slightly southward (Coordinates F-11, G-11) from the location shown on the 1898 map.

The other chief primary maps and plans that have been of value in this study are as follows:

Burly, J. L., Surveyor, "Main Entrance, F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y.," One sheet. No date, but drawn in 1901.

Burly, J. L., "South Entrance, F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y.," One sheet. No date, but drawn in 1901.

Gridland, Robert B., Landscape Architect, Philadelphia and Atlanta, "Proposed Improvements in Formal Gardens, Prepared for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park-on-Hudson, New York." Drawings No. 430, April 15, 1922, two sheets; No. 431-E, one sheet; 430-A, May 2, 1922, one sheet, and "Plans and Elevations for Alterations to Pergola," 1922, three sheets.

Greenleaf, James L., Landscape Architect, No. 1 Broadway, N. Y., "Garden of F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park-on-the Hudson." Dated 1902-1904, 25 sheets.

Hiscox, W. T., & Company, Engineers and Contractors, N. Y., "Flume Line for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y." One sheet, dated February 10, 1897.

Hiscox, W. T., & Co., "Map of part of Estate of F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., showing Locations of Pipes, Conduits, etc., Hyde Park, N. Y.," One sheet, dated October 1897.

Hosack, Dr. David, "Map Drawn from Map of Property Belonging to Dr. Hosack (Filed Oct. 6, 1849)" One sheet. Map in Collections of Hyde Park Historical Association.

McKim, Mead & White, Architects, 160th Fifth Avenue, N. Y., "Topographical Survey - Stable Plot - Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park Estate." One sheet, no date but drawn about 1895.

- Meehan, Thomas, & Sons, Inc., Mount Airy, Phila., Landscape Architects, "Garden Plan Prepared for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y." Drawing No. 2011, dated April 15, June 8, and June 10 1910. Six sheets.
- Platt, Charles A., Landscape Architect, & Jas. L. Burly, Civil Engineer, 45 Broadway, N. Y., "F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York," One huge map dated June 20, 1901.
- Sturgis, John H., & Charles Brigham, Architects, Boston, Mass., "Prospective View of Proposed Greenhouse for Walter Langdon, Esq., Hyde Park, Dutchess County, N. Y.," Six sheets dated December 9, 1874.

The other chief primary sources that have been of value in this study are as follows:

- Andrae, Charles W., Architectural Engineer, "Final Report on Alterations and Additions to Quarters, Vanderbilt Mansion N. H. S.," November 20, 1942.
- Andrae, C. W., "Final Report on Improvements of and Repairs to Buildings and Facilities at Vanderbilt Mansion N. H. S., including Necessary Equipment," January 20, 1943.
- Andrae, C. W., "Mechanical Equipment Report for Vanderbilt Mansion N.H.S.," August 28, 1940.
- Andrae, C. W., to Chief of Planning, August 8, 1940.
- Appleman, Roy E., Region One Supervisor of Historic Sites, "Report on Visit to Vanderbilt Mansion N.H.S., July 10-11, 1940, Together with Recommendations," July 18, 1940.
- Brazan's Scrap Book (hereafter referred to as BSB). A series of scrap books, 1895-1900, filled with clippings from local newspapers.
- Clermont, John B., Charles W. Snell to Superintendent George A. Palmer, "Report of Visit with Mr. John B. Clermont, of Ruby, N. Y., October 13, 1954," dated October 14, 1954. Mr. Clermont was the Superintendent of Construction for the construction firm of Norcross Brothers, the firm that erected the Mansion for McKim, Mead and White.
- Cook, L. F., Ass. Chief of Forestry, to Director 7, 1939.
- Curradi, Alfred D., Associate Engineer, "Report on Existing Utilities on the Frederick W. Vanderbilt Estate." April 30, 1940.
- Emerson, Ralph W., Resident Architect, "Special Report to Regional Architect, Region One," September 25, 1940.



- Ewald, Walter A. J., Associate Landscape Architect, to Regional Landscape Architect, Region One, September 25, 1940.
- Gray, L. M. Regional Engineer, "Special Report, Vanderbilt Mansion N. H. S., August 15, 1940.
- Moore, Charles, The Life and Times of Charles Follen McKim. (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1929).
- Palmer, George A., Superintendent, "Memorandum for the Files," May 18, 1946. Report of Mrs. Louis Brugiere's (the former Mrs. Van Alen) first visit to Vanderbilt Mansion N.H.S.
- Palmer, G. A., to Regional Director, Region One, June 5, 1951, "Visit of Mrs. Brugiere to Vanderbilt Mansion on June 4, 1951." Mrs. Brugiere (or Van Alen) is a niece of Mrs. Vanderbilt.
- Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier, 1895 to 1938 on 52 rolls of microfilm. (hereafter referred to as PSC).
- Ronalds, Francis S., Superintendent Morristown N.H.P. to Director, June 3, 1940. Report of Conference with Mrs. Margaret Louise Van Alen about the Vanderbilt Estate.
- Shears, Herbert C., "Interviews of Superintendent G. A. Palmer with Mr. H. S. Shears, 1945," Mr. Shears was superintendent of the F. W. Vanderbilt estate from 1902 to 1940.

The chief secondary sources for the map are the following fully documented studies:

- Snell, G. W., "The Early History of "Hyde Park" Estate (Vanderbilt Mansion N.H.S.), 1705 - 1894." 76 pages and four maps, dated February 17, 1955.
- Snell, G. W., "A Preliminary Report on the Frederick W. Vanderbilts of Hyde Park, New York." 89 pages, dated April 1, 1954. Valuable as a collection of primary source material for the period 1895 to 1940.
- Snell, G. W., "Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, Hyde Park, New York, (Historical Handbook MS.)" 100 pages, dated February 3, 1955. History of the Vanderbilt estate from 1895 to 1938.



(2) The Early History of the Site, 1705 - 1895.

The history of the 211 acre grounds surrounding the Vanderbilt Mansion goes back much further than that of the house. "Hyde Park", as the estate was first called, is said to have been named by Peter Fauconnier, the private secretary of Edward Hyde, Viscount Cornbury, later third Earl of Clarendon, and Governor of New York from 1702 to 1706. Fauconnier held office in the Colony as Collector and Receiver General and also owned extensive tracts of land, including a part of the patent of Hyde Park. This patent of 3,600 acres was granted in the reign of Queen Anne on April 18, 1705. Fauconnier's Hyde Park patent was apparently not developed in his lifetime, but was left as wild and untouched as when it first came into his hands. The town of Hyde Park, established in 1821, took its name from the estate.

Dr. John Bard, noted physician, acquired the entire Hyde Park patent during the two decades following Fauconnier's death in 1746. About 1764 Dr. Bard erected his first house on the patent. He lived, however, principally in New York City until about 1772, when he moved to Hyde Park. Dr. Bard then built a house which he called "Red House", just north of the present St. James Church (probably at Coordinates F-11, on the east side of the Albany Post Road) and continued the further development of his estate. After the Revolution, Dr. John Bard returned to private practice in New York. Here he assisted his son, Dr. Samuel Bard, as attending physician to President George Washington. Dr. John Bard retired to Hyde Park again in 1798, and there, a year later he died.

Dr. Samuel Bard received the property, now amounting to about 2,081 acres, by transfer shortly before his father's death. Dr. Samuel Bard, like his father, was also an eminent physician. In 1795 he built a house at Hyde Park, the first to stand on the present site of the Vanderbilt Mansion. He also laid out a garden on the land west of the Albany Post Road (actual site of the garden is unknown) and by 1820 had erected a greenhouse, said to be the first one in Dutchess County. In addition to an interest in trees and in the improvement of the grounds, which he shared with his father, Dr. Samuel Bard undertook experiments in horticulture and farming. Dr. Samuel Bard lived at Hyde Park until his death on May 24, 1821.

His only surviving son, William Bard, inherited Hyde Park, which had been reduced by land sales to 540 acres, but lived there only until 1828, when he sold the estate to Dr. David Hosack of New York City.

Dr. Hosack, who had been a professor of natural history at Columbia College, was a former partner of Dr. Samuel Bard, and the legatee of the latter's medical practice when he retired. Dr. Hosack was deeply interested in plants, flowers, and trees, and revived horticultural experimentation and gardening at Hyde Park on a grand scale. He engaged Andre Parmentier, a Belgian landscape gardener, to lay out roads, walks, a garden, and scenic vistas. This work was done between 1828 and 1830. This basic landscaping, completed by 1830, still survives today with only a few minor alterations from the original plan. The rare and exotic specimens of trees which today grace the lawns and park appear also to date principally from that time.

In 1829 Dr. Hosack also employed the services of an eminent New York City architect, Martin E. Thompson, of the firm of Tomp and Thompson, to remodel and enlarge the house that had been erected by Dr. Samuel Bard. Thompson also designed a new carriage house and gate lodges. Dr. Hosack spent great sums of money for the improvement of his property. As a result of this work, the fame of the beauty of the Hyde Park estate spread throughout this country and also to Europe.

In 1840, five years after the death of Dr. Hosack, his heirs sold the mansion tract, containing about 125 acres of land located west of the Albany Post Road, for the sum of \$42,000 to John Jacob Astor. Mr. Astor almost immediately made a gift of this purchase to his daughter Dorothea Langdon and her five children. Walter Langdon, Jr., a son, eventually bought out the property interests of his mother, sisters and brothers, and by 1852 had become the sole owner.

In 1845 the handsome mansion erected by Dr. Samuel Bard in 1795 and enlarged in 1829 by Dr. Hosack, was destroyed by fire. A new mansion, designed by Platt of New York City, was built on the site of the destroyed house in 1847. This residence was to stand until 1896. By 1872 Mr. Langdon had reunited the farm land east of the Albany Post Road through purchase. Until late in life, Mr. and Mrs. Langdon spent much of their time in Europe and the Hyde Park Mansion was closed for years. In 1882, however, Mr. Langdon returned to Hyde Park, living there the life of a country gentleman. Walter Langdon died on September 17, 1894 at the age of 72.

He left no children, and when Hyde Park was offered for sale in 1895, Frederick W. Vanderbilt purchased the 612 acre estate for \$125,000. In 1895, the section of the estate located on the west side of the Albany Post Road had its northern boundary line located just north of the Pavilion, in coordinates C-9, D-9 and E-9. In 1905, Mr. Vanderbilt acquired for \$31,000 the 64.22 acres of land extending from the above-mentioned Coordinates to the present northern boundary line of the Site. This addition completed the land that was added to the estate of Mr. Vanderbilt and restored the size of the property to much as it was in Dr. Hosack's day.

References:

- Snell, C. W., "Early History of "Hyde Park" Estate ...."  
Snell, C. W., "Vanderbilt Mansion ... (Historical Handbook MS.)", pp. 15; 32; 50-56.

(3) Documentation of Physical Features

A. Buildings and Structures

1. Vanderbilt Mansion, Coordinates C-7, D-7.

Vanderbilt Mansion was designed by Charles Follen McKim of the famous architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White. The Mansion was erected by the construction firm of (James A. and Oscar W.) Horcross Brothers, of Worcester, Massachusetts and New York City. The construction of the Mansion began in October 1896 and was completed in March 1899. The actual cost of the new mansion, unfurnished and without any fixtures, was \$660,000. Rooms in the Mansion were decorated by Ogden Codman and Georges A. Glaenzer as well as by McKim, Mead, and White.

Final alterations to the Mansion were made in 1906. The noted architect Whitney Warren, of New York City, directed these changes that were made to the drawing room, main hall, and second floor hall.

The Vanderbilt Mansion, considered by many to be among the finest examples of Italian Renaissance in the United States, is an imposing example of American adaption of Italian Renaissance architecture, created by an outstanding firm of architectural classicists who, by a free use of the architectural vocabulary of the masterful Italian Renaissance designers, evolved an impressive structure, typical of the "great houses" that were built during this era in American history. Its ponderous magnificence is softened by the true grandeur of spacious lawns, dominating view and stately trees. The Mansion is figuratively a palace brought over from the Old World and transplanted on the banks of the historic Hudson.

Roughly speaking, the mansion has about 50 rooms on four levels, including servants' quarters and utility features like the kitchen and laundry. The entire construction, concrete and steel, faced with cut Indiana limestone, is fireproof, except for the interior paneled walls. The Columbian system of fireproofing was followed in the construction of the Mansion.

The Mansion was still heated in 1940 by a two-pipe, low-pressure, steam system; heat being supplied to the first and second floors by means of a gravity, hot-air, non-recirculating system, the outside cold air being heated by steam heaters located in the ducts. The basement and third floors were heated by direct exposed radiators.

The steam was generated by two 50 HP brick-set return tubular, coal-burning, steel boilers, installed in the Mansion in 1897 by Baker-Smith Company of New York City. Domestic hot water for the house was obtained from a 300 to 400 gallon storage tank heated by a hand-fired, coal burning boiler. Baker-Smith Company also installed an air-conditioning plant in the Mansion in 1897.

Air for this plant was drawn under the porch on the west side of the Mansion and pulled through screens covered with muslin strips to remove the dust. Behind these screens were water pipes used to wash the air, introduce moisture into the air, and for moisture control.

The Mansion was wired for electricity in 1897 by Western Electric Company. The wiring was installed in manufactured gas piping and the current, D. C., was generated in the Power House (Structure #9). The fixtures, many of them imported art pieces, were installed in the Mansion by Mitchell Vance of New York City. An elevator was also installed in the house at that time.

Water for domestic and protection uses in the Mansion was supplied by the water system of the estate. A sand filter for filtering water to the Mansion was located in the sub-basement. Drinking water for the Vanderbilt family use was supplied in bottles from world famous springs. A storage tank of approximately 5,000 gallon capacity was located in the attic and all water fixtures in the Mansion were served by gravity from this tank.

Sewage from the Mansion and the Pavilion was carried on one direct line, in large earthen pipes that ran under the railroad tracks, to the Hudson River. This sewage was thus dumped into the river in a raw state.

The sheet copper roof of the Mansion was installed by John Munro. The roof leaked from the time of installation to 1940. To meet this situation Mr. Vanderbilt developed an elaborate "wash tub system." A large number of tubs were placed at the many strategic locations. All of these leaks occurred along the wall where the concrete roof slab under the copper roofing joined the brick backing of the stone work of the wall. When leaks formed over a number of years, small copper gutters were installed in the attic to direct the leakage to one or more tubs. Constant vigilance was required during rain or snow storms to prevent the tubs from overflowing.

The Mansion was the only building on the estate in 1940 having outside telephone service, with the line running underground to the Albany Post Road. There was also an estate telephone system (metallic circuit) connecting the Mansion with the Power House and Coach House. This line from the Mansion to the Power House ran underground, and from the Power House to the Coach House it was overhead.

#### Plans:

McKin, Mead and White, "House for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., at Hyde Park New York," 15 sheets, dated September 23-26, 1895. These are the first plans for the Mansion in which it was proposed to save the central portion of the Langdon Mansion and to add on two new wings.

McKim, Mead, and White, "House for Frederick W. Vanderbilt Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y.," 10 sheets, dated March 27, 1896. These are the second set of plans prepared by McKim after it was discovered that the entire Langdon Mansion must be torn down. These proposed changes were not approved by Mr. Vanderbilt.

McKim, Mead, and White, "House for F. W. Vanderbilt Esq., Hyde Park-on-the-Hudson, New York." 15 sheets, dated August 10 to 17, 1896. These are the third and final set of plans for the Vanderbilt Mansion and were used in the construction of the Mansion.

Warren and Wetmore, Architects, No. 3 East 33rd St., N. Y., "Alterations to Residence of F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y.," 12 sheets, dated March 24, 1906.

"The Mansion," Drawing No. NBS-VH 2015, 9 sheets, dated June 26, 1942. Drawn by D.M.C. Hopping. Measured drawings of the building.

References:

Moore, "The Life ... of McKim," pp. 268-269.

Clermont, John B., to Director, February 17, 1940.

Clermont, J. B., "Interview," Oct. 14, 1954.

BSB, Vol. 5, pp. 48; 75.

PSC, Oct. 18, 1896; May 2, 1897; June 4, 1897; April 23, 1899; May 14, 1899; August 26, 1906.

Ronalds, F. S., to Director, June 3, 1940.

Ronalds, F. S., to Director, June 11, 1941.

Ronalds, F. S., to Acting Supt., Vanderbilt Mansion NBS, July 27, 1945.

Ronalds, F. S., to Supt. G. A. Palmer, October 25, 1949.

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities ...," April 30, 1940.

Andrae, C. W., "Mechanical Equipment Report ...," Aug. 28, 1940.

Guscio, Francis J., Engineer, "Special Report," August 28, 1941.

Cooper, Gertrude S., Supt., to Regional Director, Region One, April 25, 1942.



## 2. The Pavilion, Coordinates D-8.

The Pavilion was designed by McKim, Mead and White, and was erected by Horrocks Brothers in 66 working days, September 8 to November 24, 1895, on the site of the old Langdon carriage house. The Pavilion was thus the first building to be erected by the Vanderbilts on their new estate and was used by them as a residence during the construction and furnishing of the Mansion. The Vanderbilts later used the Pavilion on weekends in the winter season when they came to Hyde Park for winter sports and the Mansion was closed. The building was also used to house the overflow of guests from the Mansion.

The Pavilion is basically Greek in exterior character. It represents an adaption of classic Greek architecture with which certain liberties have been taken in the interest of interior arrangement, as reflected in the introduction of more informal details, such as the disposition of window openings and the "Captain's Walk." The result is a rather happy combination of substantial repose, contributed by its classic form; and playfulness lent by its more informal fenestration and detail.

The Pavilion is a two-story structure with a complete basement, a storage room over the second floor, and a canvas covered deck; the remainder of the roof was covered with wooden shakes. The exterior walls of the building are "Pebble-dashed" (mortar with sea gravel spattered over it) and this stucco painted a yellowish color. The Pavilion contained approximately 36 rooms.

The heating system for the Pavilion, installed in 1895 by Baker-Smith Company of New York City, was of the same type as that in the Mansion, - a coal fired, low-pressure, two pipe steam boiler with direct steam radiation. The original heating system was still in use in 1940.

The structure was first lighted by means of manufactured gas, but was wired for electricity probably in 1897, the same time as the Mansion. The wiring was installed using the gas piping where possible and this original wiring was still in use in 1940. There was no telephone connection in the Pavilion.

Water for domestic and protection uses for the Pavilion was obtained from Crum Elbow Creek and brought to the Pavilion by means of the estate water system.

Sewage from the Pavilion and the Mansion were carried on one direct line to the Hudson River and disposed of, untreated, into the river.

Plans: No original plans of the Pavilion have been located.

"Alterations to the Pavilion," Drawing No. NBS-VH 2010, 10 sheets, dated October 1940. Measured drawings of the structure.

References:

- FSC, Sept. 8, 1895, p. 7; Dec. 29, 1895, p. 2; July 19, 1896, p. 2.
- Clement, J. B., "Interview," Oct. 14, 1954.
- Curradi, A. D., "Report of Existing Utilities ...," April 30, 1940
- Andrae, C. W., to Chief of Planning, August 26, 1940.
- Andrae, C. W., "Final Report on the Alterations and Additions to the Pavilion Building, Vanderbilt Mansion N. H. S., Hyde Park, N. Y.," June 20, 1942.

3. Gardener's Cottage, Coordinates D-5.

The Gardener's Cottage is a two-story brick building, with slate roof, containing five rooms and one bath. It has a complete basement which prior to 1940, had a dirt floor. The residence was designed by John H. Sturgis and Charles Brigham, Architects, of Boston, Mass., in 1874 and erected by Walter Langdon in 1875.

The building, in 1940, was heated by an coal burning furnace. The house was also wired for electricity, this installation probably dating from 1897. Sewage from the residence was disposed of in a cess pool located about 300 feet east of the house on the slope of the hill. There was no telephone in the house. Water for domestic and protection uses was supplied from Crum Elbow Creek by means of the estate water system. Good drinking water was obtained from an artesian well located near the Gardener's Cottage.

Plans:

- Sturgis, J. H., "Prospective View of Proposed Greenhouse ...", Dec. 9, 1874.
- "Gardener's Cottage and Tool House," Drawing No. NWS-VM 2021, three sheets dated July 24, 1942. Drawn by F. C. Brown, Measured Drawings.

References:

- ESH, Vol. I, p. 143.
- FSC, Oct. 3, 1875.
- Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities ...", April 30, 1940.
- Appleman, R. E., "Report on Visit...", July 18, 1940.
- Andrae, C. W., "Final Report on Alterations..to Quarters," Nov. 20, 1942.
- Andrae, C. W., "Final Report on Improvements of and Repairs...", Jan. 20, 1943.



4. Tool House, Coordinates D-5

The Tool House is a two-story brick building with a slate roof. On the first floor it contained a tool room, used for the storage of mowers, grass cutters and miscellaneous equipment used by the gardeners, a toilet room, and a potting room. The second floor contained an office which was used in connection with the operation of the flower gardens, greenhouses and maintenance of the grounds. The complete basement under the Tool House held two coal burning boilers which supplied heat for the Tool House, the Carnation House (Structure #11) and the two Palm Houses (Structures #12 and 13).

The Tool House was designed by John H. Sturgis and Charles Brigham, Architects, of Boston, Mass., in 1874 and was erected by Walter Langdon in 1875.

Water for domestic and protection uses was supplied by the estate water system. Drinking water was obtained from the artesian well located adjacent to the structure. Electrical wiring in the Tool House probably dated from 1897. There was no telephone in the building.

Plans:

Sturgis, J. H., "Prospective View of Proposed Greenhouse...", Dec. 9, 1874.

"Gardener's Cottage and Tool House," Drawing No. NIS-VM 2021, three sheets, dated July 24, 1942. Measured drawings.

References:

ESB, Vol. I, p. 143.

PSC, Oct. 3, 1875.

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities...", April 30, 1940.

Appleson, R. E., "Report on Visit...", July 18, 1940.

Andras, C. W., to Chief of Planning, August 8, 1940.

Eherson, R. W., "Special Report...", Sept. 25, 1940.

Andras, C. W., "Final Report on Improvements of ...", January 20, 1943.

5. Coach House, Coordinates D-2, D-3.

The Coach House was designed by the architect Robert Henderson Robertson, of New York City, and was erected by Horcross Brothers in 1897. In 1910 Mr. Robertson made further alterations in the building so that it could also be used as a garage.

The Coach House is an extensive two-story brick structure with a red clay tile roof. The building is one of the show places of the estate. In 1940 the first floor contained a large covered court, a garage, a fully equipped machine shop, coach room with parquet floor, wash room, harness room, saddle room, feed room, stall room with seven double stalls, and an office. There was a huge hay loft located over the stall room, garage and machine shop. The remainder of the second floor contained a living room, seven bedrooms for Coach House employees, and two baths.

A small basement located under the first floor office held a coal burning, two-pipe boiler of the open gravity, hot water type, with the flow and return piping run in sleeves under the concrete first floor slab. The building was wired for electricity, this installation probably dated from 1897. Sewage from the Coach House and Lower Gate House (Structure #7) were connected on a single line that ran from the Gate House to the river. There was no provision for treatment of the sewage. Water for domestic and protection uses at the Coach House was supplied by the estate water system. There was no outside telephone service at the Coach House. The building was, however, connected by an estate phone system (metallic circuit) with the Power House and the Mansion. The telephone line from the Coach House to the Power House (Structure #8) ran overhead, as did the power line connecting these two buildings.

#### Plans:

Robertson, R. H., 160 Fifth Avenue, N. Y., "Stable for Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Esq., at Hyde Park," 11 sheets dated 1897.

Robertson, R. H., "Proposed Alterations to Garage and Stables for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y.," 3 sheets dated January 11, 1910.

"Coach House and Stables," Drawing No. NIS-VH 2016, 8 sheets dated May 19, 1942. Drawn by F. C. Brown. Measured Drawings.

#### References:

PSC, May 30, 1897, p. 7; Dec. 7, 1897, p.7; May 1, 1898, p. 3.

Clement, J. B., "Interview," Oct. 14, 1954.

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities...", April 30, 1940.

Andrae, C. W., "Mechanical Equipment Report...", Aug. 28, 1940.

Emerson, R.W., "Special Report...", Sept. 25, 1940.

Andrae, C. W., "Final Report on Improvement of ...", Jan. 20, 1943.

6. Main Gate House, Coordinates F-5

The Main Gate House was designed by McKim, Mead and White and erected by Norcross Brothers in 1898. The building is a two-story house, constructed of Indiana limestone, with a copper roof. There are five rooms and one bath in the residence. In 1940 the building was heated by an open-type, gravity circulation hot water system with a round sectional hand-fired, coal-burning, cast-iron boiler located in the basement. Domestic hot water was supplied by a water-back in the coal-fired kitchen range, and in summer by an oil fired heater located near the range in the kitchen. The electrical wiring in the structure dated from 1898. There was no telephone in the house.

Water for domestic and protection purposes was supplied to the Gate House by the estate water system. Drinking water was obtained from a well located by the building. Sewage from the Gate House was disposed of in a nearby cesspool.

Plans:

Norris, O., "Map of the Western Portion of the Estate....," 1898.

Burly, J. L., "Main Entrance....," 1901.

"Entrance Gate House," Drawing No. NMS-VM 2017, three sheets dated June 20, 1942. Drawn by F. C. Brown. Measured drawings.

References:

PSC, March 27, 1898, p.7; June 5, 1898, p. 3; December 4, 1898, p.13.

ESB, Vol. 5, p. 64 (June 25, 1898).

Clermont, J. B., "Interview," Oct. 11, 1954.

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities ....," April 30, 1940.

Andrae, C. W., "Mechanical Equipment Report ....," Aug. 28, 1940.

Andrae, C. W., "Final Report on Alterations ... to Quarters," Nov. 20, 1942.

7. Lower Gate House, Coordinates B-2.

The Lower Gate House was designed by McKim, Mead and White and erected by Norcross Brothers in 1898. The building is a two-story structure, faced with Indiana limestone, with a copper roof. A frame addition was added to the rear of the house about 1901. The basement of the residence was located only under the stone portion of the house. There are six rooms and one bath in the building. In 1940 the house was heated by a closed hot-water system with a round sectional cast-iron, hand-fired, coal-burning boiler located in the basement. The electrical wiring in the structure dated from 1898. There was no

telephone in the house. Water for domestic and protection purposes was supplied to the Lower Gate House by the estate water system. Drinking water was carried from a nearby spring. Sewage from the Lower Gate House was carried by a line coming from the Coach House that ran on to the Hudson River. There was no provision for treatment of the sewage.

Plans:

Morris, O., "Map of Western Portion of the Estate ...", 1898.

Burly, J. L., "South Entrance ...", 1901.

"Superintendent's Residence (West Gate House)", Drawing No. NMS-VH 2016, three sheets, dated May 4, 1942. Drawn by F. C. Brown, Measured drawings.

References:

FSC, March 27, 1898, p. 7; June 5, 1898, p. 3; Dec. 4, 1898, p. 13;  
August 3, 1902, p. 7.

Clermont, J. E., "Interview," Oct. 14, 1954.

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities ...," April 30, 1940.

Andrae, C. W., "Mechanical Equipment Report...", Aug. 28, 1940.

Andrae, C. W., "Final Report on Alterations ... to Quarters," Nov. 20, 1942.

8. Power House, Coordinates E-4, E-5.

The Power House is a one-story, field-stone building with a slate roof. The building contained a shop, battery room, and pump room. The structure was designed and erected by the engineering firm of W. T. Hiscox and Company, of New York City, in 1897. The building was heated by a stove. All electricity for the estate from 1897 until sometime in the 1930's, was generated in this building. In 1940 electric power was obtained from the Central Hudson Gas & Electric Co. The meter for the Power House, Mansion, Pavilion, Greenhouses and Coach House was located in the Power House.

In 1940 the water pump, a Gould Triplex pump dating from 1899, was operating in the Power House. It was powered by a 22" water wheel operating on a 25" head. The water to operate this pump was obtained from Sherwood Pond (Coordinates F-6, F-7) and was piped to the Power House through a 30" flume. In addition to the water power, there was also a 7½ h.p. General Electric motor that was used to operate the pump during dry seasons when there was not sufficient water in Crum Elbow Creek for the operation of the water wheel. The water pump was a piston type pump and pumped two gallons per revolution. The usual operating speed was 25 to 30 r.p.m.

There was no outside telephons service at the Power House. There was, however, an estate phone system (metallic circuit) connecting the Mansion, Power House and Coach House. The line from the Mansion to the Power House was underground, and from the Power House to the Coach House it was overhead.

Plans:

Hiscox, W. T., "Flume Line for ...," Feb. 10, 1897.

Hiscox. W. T., "Map of Part of Estate ... showing Locations of Pipes...," Oct. 1897.

Morris, O., "Map of Western Portion of Estate...," 1898.

"Pump House," Drawing No. MHS-VH 2019, two sheets, dated July 10, 1942. Drawn by F. C. Brown. Measured drawings.

References:

FSC, Jan. 17, 1897, p.3; Oct. 10, 1897, p.5; Nov. 7, 1897, p.5.

ESB, Vol. 5, p. 51 (June 4, 1897).

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities...," April 30, 1940.

9. Boat House, Coordinates B-13.

The Boat House was a story and one-half frame structure with a cedar shingle roof. The attic space of the building was used for storage. In 1940 there was a mooring dock and davit for lifting small craft from the river located by the Boat House. The building was erected by Samuel B. Sexton sometime between 1890 and 1903; Mr. Vanderbilt acquired the Sexton property in 1905. Prior to 1905, Mr. Vanderbilt's boat house, erected by Walter Langdon in 1893, was located at Coordinates A-4. The Boat House (Structure #9) was removed by the U. S. in 1953.

Plans:

Morris, O., "Map of the Western Portion of the Estate...," 1898.

Brevoort, B., "Plan of Torham,...," 1903-1905.

"Boat House," Drawing No. MHS-VH 2020, one sheet dated July 24, 1942. Drawn by D. M. C. Hopping. Measure drawing.

FSC, June 11, 1893, p. 3; March 8, 1896, p. 7; March 9, 1902, p.7 for boat house at A-4.

FSC, Oct. 15, 1905, p. 5.

Emerson, R. W., "Special Report...," Sept. 25, 1940.

Palmer, G. A., "Supt.'s Monthly Narrative Reports for December 1952 and January 1953."

10. Coachman's Cottage (Site of), Coordinates C-2

The Coachman's Cottage was a frame building that had been erected by Walter Langdon. In 1940 the structure was reported to be in a very dilapidated condition. The cottage was removed by the N.P.S. in 1941.

Plans:

Morris, O., "Map of the Western Portion of the Estate...", 1898.

There are no original or N.P.S. plans of this house.

References:

Emerson, R. W., "Special Report...", Sept. 25, 1940.

Cooper, G. S., Supt., to Coordinating Supt. F. S. Ronalds, Oct. 16, 1940.

Tolson, Hillory A., Chief of Operations to Supt. Cooper, Nov. 9, 1940.

11. Carnation House, Coordinates D-5.

The Carnation Greenhouse, which connected the Gardener's Cottage (Structure #3) and the Tool House (Structure #4), was erected in 1906. The Carnation House was heated by two cast-iron, sectional type, hand-fired, coal-burning boilers located in the basement of the Tool House. This plant also heated the Tool House, and by underground mains, the two Palm Houses (Structures #12 & 13). The Carnation House was heated by a typical greenhouse system, namely, cast-iron coils under the benches. The electric wiring in the structure dated back to 1906. Water for the Carnation House was furnished by the estate water system. The Carnation House was removed in 1954 by the N. P. S.

Plans:

Pierson U Bar Co., 1 Madison Ave., N. Y. C., "Proposed Greenhouses for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y.," Plan No. 1027, one sheet, and #1027 Revised, one sheet. With Specifications dated April 5, 1906.

"The Gardens," Drawing No. NPS-VH 2006, January 1, 1941.

References:

Andrae, C. W., to Chief of Planning, Aug. 8, 1940.

Ewald, W. A. J., to Regional Landscape Architect, Sept. 25, 1940.

Emerson, R. W., "Special Report...", Sept. 25, 1940.

Palmer, G. A., "Supt's Monthly Narrative Report for January 1954.



12 & 13. Two Palm Houses, Coordinates D-5

The two Palm Houses were erected in 1905. These two greenhouses were heated by underground mains from two cast-iron, sectional type, hand-fired coal-burning boilers that were located in the basement of the Tool House (Structure #4). This plant also heated the Tool House and the Carnation House (Structure #11). The two Palm Houses were heated by a typical greenhouse system, namely, cast-iron coils under the benches. Electrical wiring in the Palm Houses dated back to 1905. Water for the Palm Houses was furnished by the estate water system. The two Palm Houses were removed by the N. P. S. in 1954.

Plans:

The Pierson-Sefton Company, Horticultural Architects & Builders, Jersey City, "F. W. Vanderbilt Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y., Sketch - Design for Palm Houses, "Plan No. 1388 & 1389.

The Pierson-Sefton Co., "Mason Plan for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq.," Plan No. 412/419, two sheets dated March 1, 1905.

"The Gardens," Drawing No. NHS-VM 2006, Jan. 1, 1941.

References:

Andrae, D. W., to Chief of Planning, Aug. 8, 1940.

Ewald, W. A. J., to Regional Landscape Architect, Sept. 25, 1940.

Emerson, R. W., "Special Report . . .," Sept. 25, 1940.

Palmer, G. A., "Supt.'s Monthly Report for January 1954."

14 & 15. Two Rose Houses, Coordinates D-5.

The two Rose Houses were erected in 1907. These greenhouses were heated by an open type, gravity, hot water system, with the boilers (Burnham) being located in the basement of the building. The boilers were hand-fired, coal-burning, cast-iron, section type and were uncovered. The two houses were heated by means of a typical greenhouse system, namely, cast-iron coils under the benches. The electrical wiring in the greenhouses dated back to 1907. Water for the two Rose Houses was furnished by the estate water system. The Rose Houses were removed by the N. P. S. in 1947.

Plans:

Pierson U-Bar Co., "Mason Plan," Order #1763, Plan #1951, one sheet dated March 8-9, 1907.

Pierson U-Bar Co., "Proposed Greenhouse for F. W. Vanderbilt Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y." Plan #1250, three sheets, no date.



"The Gardens," Drawing No. NMS - VM 2006, Jan. 1, 1941.

References:

PSC, April 28, 1907, p. 3.

Andrae, C. W., to Chief of Planning, Aug. 8, 1940.

Evald, W. A. J., to Regional Landscape Architect, Sept. 25, 1940.

Emerson, R. W., "Special Report ...," Sept. 25, 1940.

Palmer, G. A., "Supt.'s Monthly Narrative Report for April 1947."

16. Pool House, Coordinates D-5.

The brick Pool House was erected in 1903 as a part of the Italian Garden development by the Landscape Architect James L. Greenleaf.

Plans:

Greenleaf, J. L., "Garden of F. W. Vanderbilt ...," 1902 - 1904.

"The Gardens," Drawing No. NMS-VM 2006, Jan. 1, 1941.

17. Garden House (Loggia). Coordinates D-5.

The Garden House was erected in 1910 by the Landscape Architects Thomas Meehan and Sons..

Plans:

Meehan, T., "Garden Plan Prepared...," 1910.

"The Gardens," Drawing No. NMS-VM 2006, Jan. 1, 1941.

18. Pergola, Coordinates D-5.

The Pergola was erected by James L. Greenleaf, Landscape Architect, in 1903 and remodelled by Robert E. Cridland, Landscape Architect, in 1922. Most of the superstructure of the Pergola was removed by the N.P.S. in 1951.

Plans:

Greenleaf, J. L., "Garden of F. W. Vanderbilt...," 1902-1904.

Cridland, R. E., "Proposed Improvements in Formal Gardens...," 1922.

"The Gardens," Drawing No. NMS-VM 2006, Jan. 1, 1941.

References:

Palmer, G. A., Supt. to the Director, December 7, 1951.

References: Aug. 7, 1895, p. 6 (for original wooden bridge); June 13, 1897, p. 3; June 20, 1897, p. 3; Oct. 3, 1897, p. 3; Oct. 17, 1897, p. 5; Nov. 21, 1897, p. 7.

"Concrete Steel Bridge for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y." Drawn by Owen Morris, C. E., Supt. of Construction. Three sheets, no date, but drawn in 1897.  
"V Melan Arch Construction (Pat. Sept. 12, 1893) Bridge for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y." W. T. Hiscox & Co. A colored sketch of the bridge. No date, but drawn in 1897.

Plans:

White Bridge was designed and erected in 1897 by the New York City engineering firm of W. T. Hiscox and Company. A Melan single arch bridge, it is said to be one of the first steel and concrete bridges to be erected anywhere in the United States.

21. White Bridge, Coordinates E-6.

Palmer, C. A., Supt. to Regional Director, Region One, August 31, 1951.

References:

The tennis court was erected between 1928 and 1930 for the use of Mrs. Van Alen's children. (Note: Mrs. Farley and Fred Trudt say that Mr. Vanderbilt erected the tennis court for Mrs. Van Alen's children and that they never used it.) CWB - Feb. 27, 1957.

20. Tennis Court, Coordinates E-8.

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities ...," April 30, 1940.

PSC, May 27, 1906, p. 9; Aug. 26, 1906, p. 7; Oct. 14, 1906, p. 3.

References:

"Plans of Tunnel and Road for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y.," Office of E. Burnett, 11 East St., N. Y. City. Drawn by S. Cunningham, Jr., and A. C. Rother. One sheet, no date but drawn in 1906.

Plans:

The subway was erected in 1906 for the use of taxicabs and delivery wagons. The tunnel is a reinforced concrete underpass running under the Albany Post Road and connecting the park section of the estate with the farm section.

19. Subway, Coordinates E-8.

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities...", April 30, 1940.

Gray, L. M., "Special Report...", Aug. 15, 1940.

Guscio, Francis, to Supt. G. S. Cooper, Jan. 25, 1944.

The American Institute (E. C. McDowell) to Francis Guscio,  
March 13, 1944.

22. Rustic Bridge, Coordinates D-3, C-3.

This two-arch reinforced concrete bridge is faced with cobble stones. The Rustic Bridge was designed and constructed by Horcross Brothers in 1897.

Plans:

Morris, O., "Map of the Western Portion of the Estate...", 1898.

There are no original Plans.

References:

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities ...," April 30, 1940.

Gray, L. M., "Special Report...", Aug. 15, 1940.

Clermont, J. B., "Interview," Oct. 14, 1954.

23. Lower Dam, Coordinates B-2.

The Lower Dam was standing in 1898.

Plans:

Morris, O., "Map of the Western Portion of the Estate...", 1898.

24. Power House Dam, Coordinates E-5.

Power House Dam was erected in 1897 by the engineering firm of W. T. Hiscox and Company of New York City to furnish power and water for the estate.

Plans:

Hiscox, W. T., "Flume Line ...," Feb. 10, 1897.

Hiscox, W. T., "Map of Part of Estate ... showing Locations of Pipes...",  
October 1897.

References:

PSC, Jan. 17, 1897, p.3; Nov. 7, 1897, p.5.

25. Railroad Bridge, Coordinates C-13.

This metal overhead bridge, connecting the Bard Rock section of the estate with the park portion, was erected by the New York Central Railroad in 1912.

Plans:

"N. Y. C. & H. R., Leased and Operated Lines, Hudson Division. Superstructure Plan for Reconstruction of Overhead Bridge No. 224, 1½ Miles North of Hyde Park," two sheets dated Jan. 12 and Jan. 16, 1912.

26. Albany Post Road Bridge, Coordinates F-6, E-6, E-7, F-7.

This field-stone and concrete bridge was erected in 1898 from \$18,000 donated to the Town of Hyde Park by Mr. Vanderbilt for this purpose. The bridge was designed by Owen Morris, Civil Engineer of Hyde Park and Poughkeepsie. In 1922 the southern approaches to the bridge were widened to 32 feet. In 1928 a concrete arch was added to form a third lane. The present center and west lanes are the original portion of the bridge.

Plans:

Morris, O., "Map of Western Portion of the Estate....," 1898.

References:

ESC, April 24, 1898, p.3; May 1, 1898, p.3; May 8, 1898, p.6;  
May 15, 1898, p.2; June 5, 1898, p. 3; June 12, 1898, p.3;  
June 26, 1898, p.7; July 3, 1898, p.3; July 24, 1898, p. 7;  
Nov. 13, 1898, p.7; Nov. 27, 1898, p.3; Dec. 4, 1898, p.3;  
Dec. 11, 1898, p.3; Dec. 25, 1898, p.7; August 6, 1922, p.9;  
March 4, 1928, p.7.

HSB, Vol. 5, pp. 63, 64, 65.

27. Wales House, Coordinates E-3, E-4.

The Wales House, with approximately 16 rooms and three baths, is a Georgian Colonial house of brick trimmed with white. The house was designed for Mr. Vanderbilt by McKim, Mead and White, and erected by Norcross Brothers in 1896. Mr. Edward Wales, a friend of Mr. Vanderbilt, resided in the house from 1896 to his death in 1922. The Wales House was a part of the Vanderbilt estate until 1938, used from 1938 by Mr. Herbert C. Shears as a residence. Water for domestic uses in the house was supplied by the estate water system. Under Mr. Vanderbilt's will, in 1938, Mr. Shears inherited the Wales House and three surrounding acres of land.

Plans:

McKim, Mead and White, "Cottage for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., at Hyde Park-on-the-Hudson," Three studies of the first floor and three studies for the second floor. No date, but drawn in 1895.

References:

PSC, Aug. 4, 1895, p. 3; Dec. 29, 1895, p. 7; March 1, 1896, p. 7;  
July 19, 1896, p. 2; Oct. 10, 1897, p. 7; Sept. 25, 1898, p. 3;  
July 17, 1938, p. 1.

BSB, Vol. 5, p. 16 (Dec. 16, 1895).

Clermont, J. B., "Interview," Oct. 11, 1954.

Shears, H. C., "Interview," Aug. 2, 1945.

28. Howard Mansion ("The Craigs"). Coordinates H-8, G-8.

Howard Mansion (or the "Craigs", as the family called it) is a 35-room field-stone mansion, designed for Mr. Vanderbilt by McKim, Mead and White, and erected by Norcross Brothers in 1896. Material used in the construction of the house was in great part taken from the old stone walls on the estate and special care was taken to select rocks which had moss and lichens on them and to leave these growths undistributed. Mrs. Thomas H. Howard was a niece of Mrs. Vanderbilt, and lived in the house until the 1930's. The Howard Mansion was a part of the Vanderbilt estate in 1938. In 1899 a large wing was added to the Howard Mansion and in 1901 a large coach house was also erected near the house. (These latter two additions do not appear on the Historical Base Map, which shows the Howard Mansion as it was in 1898). Water for domestic use at this house was supplied by the estate water system.

Plans:

McKim, Mead and White, "Proposed House for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., at Hyde Park-on-the-Hudson." Study for first floor. No date, but drawn in 1895.

McKim, Mead and White, "Colored Sketch of Howard Mansion," An early sketch for the buildings. No date, but drawn in 1895.

References:

PSC, Aug. 4, 1895, p. 6; Oct. 20, 1895, p. 3; Dec. 29, 1895, p. 2, p. 7;  
March 1, 1896, p. 7; July 19, 1896, p. 2; Aug. 25, 1901, p. 7;  
Oct. 27, 1901, p. 7; July 11, 1920, p. 18.

BSB, Vol. 5, pp. 85, 86, 90.

29. The Farm Barns, Coordinates F-11, C-12, F-12.

The great Farm Barns standing in 1940, were erected in 1901 by the construction firm of Cregan and Collins, of Morristown, N. J. Water for the farm portion of the estate was supplied by the estate water system. (Note: the farm buildings as indicated on the Historical Base Map, are based on Owen Morris's "Map of the Eastern Portion of the Estate...", 1898; there are no later surveys available to show changes in the estate after 1898.)

References:

There are no original plans or other drawings of the 1901 barns.

PSG, July 19, 1896, p. 2; June 26, 1898, p. 7; June 30, 1901, p. 3; July 7, 1901, p. 7; July 21, 1901, p. 3; Aug. 4, 1901, p. 7; Aug. 25, 1901, p. 7; Oct. 13, 1901, p. 7; Dec. 1, 1901, p. 3; July 10, 1938, p. 5.

B. The Water System of the Vanderbilt Estate.

The water system of the estate was designed and installed by the engineering firm of W. T. Hiscox and Company, of New York City, in 1897. In 1940, water for all domestic and protection purposes, other than drinking, was obtained from Crum Elbow Creek which runs through the estate. The water was stored in a 15' diameter by 50' high metal standpipe holding approximately 66,000 gallons. The standpipe was located on a high point of the estate on the farm section, approximately 2200 feet east of the Albany Post Road. Distribution was obtained through a series of four inch mains serving all buildings on the estate, including the Italian Gardens and the farm group. The water pump was housed in the Power House (Structure #8). The pump was powered by a 22 inch water wheel operating on a 25 foot head. The water for power was obtained from Sherwood Pond, east of the Albany Post Road, and was piped to the Power House through a 30 inch flume. In addition to the water pump, there was an electric motor in the Power House, which could be used to operate the pump during dry seasons when there was not sufficient water in the creek for the operation of the water wheel. During summer months of relatively light rainfall, 25,000 to 30,000 gallons of water were pumped daily, the water being used on the gardens and lawns.

The bottom of the standpipe was 120 feet above the Power House so that when the standpipe was full, there was approximately 70 pound pressure at the Power House and 55 to 60 pound pressure at the Vanderbilt Mansion.

There was a sand filter in the basement of the Mansion and a storage tank of approximately 5,000-gallon capacity in the attic. All water supply fixtures in the Mansion were served by gravity from this tank.

During the time the Mansion was being operated, the Vanderbilt family received their drinking water in bottles from world famous springs. Good drinking water for the Mansion, Pavilion, and Greenhouse group was also obtained from an artesian well located at the Greenhouses. Water from this well was not piped to any of the buildings. The Lower Gate House received its drinking water from a nearby spring, which was not piped to the house. There was also a well for drinking water located at the Main Gate House.

Plans:

Hiscox, W. T., "Flume Line ....," Feb. 10, 1897.

Hiscox, W. T., "Map of Part of Estate ...., showing Locations of Pipes....," October 1897.

For the water distribution system in the Italian Gardens, see:

Greenleaf, J. L., "Garden of F. W. Vanderbilt ....," 1902-1904.

Meehan, Thomas, "Garden Plan Prepared ....," 1910.

References:

P3C, Sept. 15, 1895, p. 9; July 16, 1896, p. 2; Jan. 17, 1897, p. 3;  
March 21, 1897, p. 7; March 28, 1897, p. 3; May 2, 1897, p. 5;  
Nov. 7, 1897, p. 5.

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities....," April 30, 1940.

C. Sewage Systems of the Vanderbilt Estate.

In 1940 the Mansion and the Pavilion were on one line that ran direct to the Hudson River. There was no provision for treatment, consequently all sewage reached the river in a raw state. Sewage from the Greenhouses, Gardener's Cottage and Tool House was piped to a cesspool and the effluent was disposed of through a tile field.

The Coach House and Lower Gate House were connected to a line that ran from the Lower Gate House to the river. There was no provision for treatment. Sewage from the Main Gate House was disposed of in a nearby cesspool.

References:

There are no original plans of the sewage disposal systems.

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities ....," April 30, 1940.



D. Electrical System of the Estate.

The electrical wiring systems in all buildings on the park side of the estate dated from the time of the erection of the various structures. Electricity for the estate was generated at the Power House from 1897 until some time in the 20th Century. In 1940 electric power was obtained from the Central Hudson Gas & Electric Co. The meter for the Power House, Mansion, Pavilion, Greenhouse group, and Coach House was located in the Power House. There was an overhead power line from the Albany Post Road to the Power House, and from the Power House to the Coach House. Distribution from the Power House to the Mansion, Pavilion, and Greenhouse group, was by means of an underground power line.

There was a separate underground power line from the Albany Post Road to the Mansion, installed for the operation of the automatic elevator. This line carried 2300 volts and was stepped down to 220 volts by means of a transformer located in the Mansion. There was also a separate meter at the Mansion for this line.

Plans:

For the original gas and electrical distribution systems, and for the telephone system of the estate, see:

Hiscox, W. T., "Map of Part of Estate ... showing Locations of Pipes....," Oct., 1897.

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities ....," April 30, 1940.

E. The Italian Gardens, Coordinates C-5, D-5.

The Italian Gardens stand on the site of the gardens, with greenhouse, developed by Dr. David Hosack in 1830. Walter Langdon also maintained a garden with greenhouses on this same site. The Langdon Gardens can be substantially recreated by means of a plan entitled "Hyde Park - Gardens, 1897," as it is clear from the evidence that the only changes made by Mr. Vanderbilt to the Langdon gardens in the period 1895 to 1897, was the erection of two greenhouses in 1891 and two more in 1897.

Certain structural features indicated on the 1897 garden plan, such as buildings, walls, and general grade relations of the terraced garden plots, still exist, while other units of the greenhouses and garden parterres were substantially changed from 1903 to 1934. Major alterations were made to the gardens in 1903 and greenhouse alterations and new greenhouse construction were carried out in 1905, 1906 and 1907. It is thus clear that the existing garden units and boundary garden walls were used as the skeletal basis for subsequent garden alterations and additions carried out by several professional and contracting landscape architectural firms.

The Italian Gardens were compartmented into three main units in 1940:

1. The Greenhouse Gardens. This section was divided into three separate parterre gardens of varying levels and were included within a rectangle, framed on the west side by the Rose Houses (Structures #14 & 15) and Palm Houses (Structures #12 & 13), and on the north side by the Carnation House (Structure #11), the Gardener's Cottage and Tool House (Structures #3 & 4). This portion of the garden contained geometric garden beds that had evolved from the 1897 garden.
2. The Cherry Walk and Pool Gardens. This section was located at a lower grade, immediately east of the Greenhouse Gardens, and progressed from the Pergola (Structure #18 south to the Pool House (Structure #16). This section of the garden had also evolved from the 1897 garden.
3. The Rose Garden. This section was located at a lower grade, immediately east of the Cherry Walk and Pool Gardens, and extended eastward to the Garden House (Structure #17). The Rose Garden was divided into two levels, each containing panel beds. The Rose Garden was added to the other two garden sections in 1910.

Garden circulation in general progressed from the Greenhouse Gardens to the Cherry Walk and Pool Gardens, then to the Rose Garden. Path circulation in the Greenhouse Gardens was circumferential. The main garden walk that led to the Cherry Walk and Pool Gardens originated in the service court southwest of the Pool House (Structure #4), extended in front of the Carnation House and Gardener's Cottage (Structures #11 and 3), and terminated in the Pergola (Structure #18), where it turns to form the central walk of the Cherry Walk Garden leading to the Pool Garden (at Structure #16). Access was also possible directly into the Pool House (Structure #16) of the Cherry Walk and Pool Gardens from the southeast corner of the Greenhouse Gardens.

Access to the gardens from the Mansion was by way of an informal path extending along the crest of the bank, on the west edge of the south lawn. A garden access path, centering between the two Palm Houses (Structures #12 & 13), took off from this path and crossed the service drive leading to the Tool House (Structure #4) and led into the circumferential path system of the Greenhouse Gardens. Alternate access to the gardens from the Mansion was also possible by following the Main Park Drive to the east of the Gardener's Cottage (Structure #3). It was not possible to enter the gardens by crossing the south lawn due to the heavy mature screen planting north of the Greenhouse Service Road and Carnation House (Structure #11).

#### Development of the Italian Gardens, 1903-1934.

1. James L. Greenleaf, Landscape Architect, 1903.

Structural reconstruction of the then existing gardens (the Greenhouse Gardens and the Cherry Walk-Pool Gardens sections) by Mr. Greenleaf included

the addition of the Pergola (Structure #18), pool-garden, connecting walk, pool, colonnade and Pool House (Structure #16 terminating the walk and pool-garden. Minor revisions in the widths of the paths bordering the upper gardens in the Greenhouse Gardens were made and separating walls, piers and ironwork panels were introduced between the upper bedding gardens and the newly constructed Cherry Walk and Pool Gardens to the east. The general result of this construction was the unification of the two garden units by the creation of a combined axial walk and terminal garden feature, and the introduction of varied character in the gardens by the contrasting treatment and compartmentation of the garden units.

2. Thomas Meehan and Sons, Landscape Architects, 1910.

In 1910 the Rose Garden was constructed in its present location, east of the Cherry Walk and Pool Garden, and connected to it by a symmetrical step-terrace transition. A Garden House (Loggia) (Structure #17) and pool were erected as the eastern terminus for the Rose Garden.

3. Robert B. Cridland, Landscape Architect, 1916, 1917, 1922, 1923, 1934.

In 1916 perennial beds were added to the south end of the Cherry Walk and Pool Gardens. In 1917 planting was done outside of the walls of the Rose Garden, along the north side and around the east end of this garden by the Garden House (Structure #17). In 1922 design revisions of the Pergola (Structure #18), Cherry Walk and Pool Garden Walls and perennial borders were made by Mr. Cridland. A trellis and arbor treatment were introduced along the walk west of the Pool Garden. Grade and planting changes were also made in connection with revised wall construction. In 1934 a row of cherry trees, with its supporting borders, was planted on either side of the Cherry Walk, south of the Pergola (Structure #18).

In addition to these alterations, certain garden units, namely the upper bedding garden and the lower bedding (turf) garden in the Greenhouse Garden, had evolved into their present form through the successive efforts of several gardeners attached to the estate.

References: Hosack Gardens.

"Hosack, "Map Drawn from Map..., " 1849.

Snell, C. W., "Early History of Hyde Park"..., " pp. 37-39 & Map #2.

References: 1897-1902 Gardens.

"Hyde Park - Gardens, 1897," one sheet.

Platt, C. A., "F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq. . . .," one sheet, dated June 20, 1901.

"F. S. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y., Plans for two Lean-to Greenhouses." by Hitching & Co., 233 Mercer St., N. Y., Five sheets, dated July 13, 1897.

"Specifications of the Construction and Materials required in the erection of two glass greenhouses ... Detail by John A. Scollay, Horticultural Architect and Builder and Hot water Engineer, Brooklyn, N. Y." Dated July 26, 1897. "Contract" for erections of same, between Scollay and Mr. Vanderbilt, dated Aug. 3, 1897. These documents show that Scollay had erected two lean-to greenhouses for Mr. Vanderbilt in 1896 and two more houses in 1897.

"Ground Plan of Present Greenhouse (Langdon's)" One sheet, stamped with Scollay's name.

PSC, Sept. 15, 1895, p. 9; June 21, 1896, p. 3; July 19, 1896, p. 2;  
Nov. 7, 1897, p. 8.

References: Gardens, 1903 - 1909.

For erection of Greenhouses see: Section 3. A, Structures #11, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Greenleaf, J. L., "Garden of F. W. Vanderbilt ...," 25 sheets, 1902 - 1904.

PSC, March 15, 1903, p. 3; July 26, 1903, p. 3; May 27, 1906, p. 9;  
April 28, 1907, p. 3.

Shears, H. C., "Interview."

References: Gardens, 1910 - 1915.

Meehan, T., "Garden Plan Prepared...," Six sheets, 1910.

References: Gardens, 1916 - 1934.

Cridland, R. B., "Detail Arrangement of Gardens prepared for Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park-on-Hudson, N. Y., - Drawing No. 133, two sheets, dated Feb. 15, 1916.

Cridland, R. B., "Planting Plan for Garden Plot, Estate of Fred'k K. (sic) Vanderbilt Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y.," - Drawing No. 220, one sheet, dated April 30, 1917.

Cridland, R. B., "Proposed Improvements in Formal Garden...,"  
Seven sheets, dated 1922.

Cridland, R. B., "Foundation Planting for Property of Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park-on-Hudson, N. Y.," No. 430-B,  
430-D, two sheets, dated February 1923.

Cridland, R. B., "Garden Plan Prepared for Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Esq.,  
Hyde Park, New York," No. 1-20, two sheets, dated Sept. 1934.

References: 1940 Gardens.

"The Gardens," Drawing No. NHS-VM 2006, Jan. 1, 1941.

Ewald, W. A. J., to Regional Landscape Architect, Sept. 25, 1940. See also Garden Insert Sheets in the 1941 edition of the Vanderbilt Mansion Master Plan.

F. Gates, Walls and Fences.

1. Main Gate, Coordinates F-5.

The Main Gate was designed by McKim, Mead and White and erected by Norcross Brothers in 1898.

References:

McKim, Mead, & White, "South Entrance, F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq." One sheet. With specifications of work to be done in the erection and completion of wall and gate posts, signed by Norcross Brothers, April 11, 1898.

PSC, July 31, 1898, p. 7.

Clermont, J. B., "Interview," October 14, 1954.

2. Lower Gate, Coordinates B-2.

The Lower Gate was designed by McKim, Mead and White and erected by Norcross Brothers in 1898.

References:

PSC, July 31, 1898, p. 7.

Clermont, J. B., "Interview", October 14, 1954.

3. North Gate, Coordinates F-11.

The North Gate was erected by Henry Myers, a mason of Hyde Park, in 1906. From 1895 to 1905, the original north gate of the estate was located in Coordinates E-10, and was moved to its present location after Mr. Vanderbilt acquired the Sexton property in 1905.

References:

Haps showing 1895-1905 north gate:

Morris, O., "Map of the Western Portion of Estate ....," 1898.

Flatt, C. A., "F. W. Vanderbilt....," 1901, one sheet.

McKim, Mead, & White, "Topographical Survey...", one sheet.

FSC, April 8, 1906, p. 6; Sept. 16, 1906, p. 6.

4. West Market Street Wall.

The bluestone wall running along the north side of West Market Street through Coordinates A-2, B-2, B-1, C-1, C-2, D-2, D-3, E-3, and F-3, was erected by Henry Myers, a mason of Hyde Park, in 1898. The iron picket fence on top of the stone wall, Coordinates E-3, F-3, in front of the Wales House was erected in 1898.

References:

Morris, O., "Map of Western Portion of Estate....," 1898.

FSC, July 31, 1898; Sept. 25, 1898, p. 3.

5. Albany Post Road Wall.

The bluestone wall running along the west side of the Albany Post Road, through Coordinates F-4, F-5, F-6, E-7, E-8, E-9, E-10, was erected by Henry Myers, a mason of Hyde Park, in 1898. The bluestone wall continuing along the west side of the Albany Post Road from Coordinates E-10 through E-11, F-11, and F-12, was erected by Mr. Myers in 1906, after Mr. Vanderbilt had acquired the Sexton Property in 1905. The Portion of the wall from north of the Albany Post Road bridge (Structure #26) at Coordinates E-7 through E-8 to E-9, had a high iron picket fence mounted on top of the stone wall. This iron fence was installed in 1919 and removed by the N.P.S. in 1942.

References:

Morris, O., "Map of Western Portion of Estate....," 1898.

FSC, July 31, 1898, p.7; April 8, 1906, p. 6; Sept. 16, 1906, p. 6.

"Plan for Iron Fence on Albany Post Road," by J. S. Fiske Iron Works, 56-58 Park Place, N. Y., Drawing No. 4727, order No. 6307. One sheet, dated July 14, 1919.

Cook, L. F. to Director, Dec. 7, 1939.

Cooper, G. S., Supt., to Director, Nov. 20, 1942.

6. North Boundary Wall.

The North Boundary Wall is a dry wall constructed of field stones. This old wall probably dates back to the Bard days, - late 18th century. The wall runs from the Albany Post Road at Coordinates F-12 through F-13, E-13, to D-13.

7. Railroad Boundary Wall.

A high picket iron fence, mounted most of the distance on a concrete and stone wall, runs along the east side of the New York Central Railroad tracks,



from Coordinates C-13 through C-12, C-11, C-10, C-9, C-8, B-8, B-7, B-6, B-5, B-4, A-4, A-3 to A-2, at the southwest corner of the estate. This iron fence and wall were probably erected in 1919.

References:

Morris, O., "Map of Western Portion of Estate...", 1898, does not show this fence and wall.

Plan for Iron Fence on Albany Post Road..., July 14, 1919.

Cook, L. F., to Director, Dec. 7, 1939.

G. Roads and Walks.

The main road system of the estate in 1940 followed essentially the pattern established by Dr. David Hosack in 1830. (See "Map Drawn from map...", 1849).

The roads throughout the estate in 1940 were in excellent condition. With the exception of the Boat House Road and Lower Meadow Road, all roads on the park section of the estate were 16 feet wide and had precast concrete curbs four inches wide and four inches exposed height, on both sides of the road. There were a combined concrete curb and gutters on all grades. Road construction consisted of an 8 inch to 12 inch telford base covered with approximately two inches of one-inch crushed stone and a top dressing of approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of stone screenings.

(1) Main Park Drive.

The Main Park Drive entered the park section by the Main Gate at Coordinates F-5, proceeding to E-5, E-6, crossing over Crum Elbow Creek by means of White Bridge (Structure #21), and continuing up the slope through D-6, D-5, D-6 to the circular drive at D-7, D-8, E-6, E-7, and E-8, in front of the Mansion. The circular drive, as it was in 1940, dated from 1910. In that year the present eastern half of the circle was constructed; prior to 1910 the eastern branch of the Main Park Drive proceeded directly across the center of the present circle, to the North Drive.

The Main Park Drive then leaves the circle at D-8, via North Drive, passing the Pavilion (Structure #20) through Coordinates D-9, D-10, D-11, E-11 to the North Gate at F-11. The portion of the present North Drive from Coordinates D-10, D-11, E-11, to the North Gate, was constructed in 1906 after Mr. Vanderbilt acquired the Sexton estate in 1905.

(2). Crum Elbow Creek Road.

Crum Elbow Road leaves the Main Park Drive at Coordinates E-6 by the White Bridge (Structure #21), and proceeds along the west bank of the stream through Coordinates E-5, E-4, D-4, D-3, C-3, C-2, leaving the state by the Lower Gate at B-2. Crum Elbow Creek Road was



constructed by Doctor David Hosack in 1830. (See William Wilson in, The New York Farmer and Horticultural Repository, June 1829).

(3). Coach House Road.

The Coach House Road leaves the Crum Elbow Road at Coordinates C-3, D-4, crossing the stream by means of the Rustic Bridge (Structure #22), leads to the Coach House (Structure #5), and proceeds through C-3, C-2, to the gate on West Market Street at D-2. This road was apparently constructed by Mr. Vanderbilt in 1897.

(4). Boat House Road.

The Boat House Road leaves the Main Park Drive at Coordinates E-11, and proceeds down the hill through Coordinates E-12, F-12, F-13, E-13, D-13, C-13, crossing over the railroad tracks by means of the Railroad Bridge (Structure #25), to the Boat House (Structure #9) and Bard Rock at B-13. This dirt and gravel road dated back at least to 1797, when Dr. Samuel Bard operated a store at Bard Rock. (See Jacob Smith's "Map of the Town of Clinton," 1797).

(5). Lower Meadow Road.

Lower Meadow Road leaves the Boat House Road at D-13, proceeds through Coordinates C-13, C-12, C-11, C-10, C-9, C-8, C-7, B-7, B-6, B-5, B-4, B-3, and joins the Crum Elbow Creek Road at B-2. This dirt road was constructed by Mr. Vanderbilt in 1898, except for the northern portion, which was added after Mr. Vanderbilt acquired the Sexton estate in 1905.

(6). Garden Service Road.

The Garden Service Road leaves the Main Drive at D-5 and leads to the Tool House (Structure #4) and the Italian Gardens.

(7). Mansion Utility Road.

The Mansion Utility Road is located at the north end of the Mansion (Structure #1) at Coordinates D-7, and leads from the Main Park Drive Circle to the basement entrance of the Mansion.

(8). Pavilion Road.

The Pavilion Road leads from the Main Park Drive at Coordinates D-8, to the Pavilion. (Structure #2).

(9). Farm Section Roads.

All roads shown on the farm section, located on the east side of the Albany Post Road, are based on Morris; "Map of the Eastern Portion..," 1898.

(10). Circle Walk.

A foot path leaves the Main Park Drive by White Bridge (Structure #21) at Coordinates E-6, proceeds up the hill and rejoins the Main Park Drive at D-6. This path dates from Dr. David Hosack's period, 1830.

(11). Bluff Walk.

A foot path leads south from the Mansion at C-7, through Coordinates C-6, D-6, C-6, C-5, connecting with the Italian Gardens, and proceeds on south through C-4, and joins the Crum Elbow Creek Road at C-3. This walk also dates from the 1830's.

Plans:

Morris, O., "Map of the Western Portion of Estate ...," 1898.

McKin, Mead & White, "Map showing Main Drive, Property of F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., at Hyde Park," No. 7488-s, One sheet, dated Oct. 10, 1895.

Platt, C. A., "F. W. Vanderbilt...", One sheet, 1901.

References:

PSC, Aug. 4, 1895, p. 6; May 17, 1896, p. 7; May 31, 1896, p. 3; July 19, 1896, p. 2; Oct. 15, 1905, p. 5.

BSB, Vol. 5, p. 8 (Nov. 24, 1899).

Shears, H. S., "Interview".

Curradi, A. D., "Report on Existing Utilities...", April 30, 1940.

Gray, L. M., "Special Report...", August 15, 1940.

H. Trees and Meadows.

The magnificent specimen trees on the mansion grounds may be ranked as a feature of interest in this area second only to the Mansion itself. The grounds constitute one of the oldest and most outstanding arboretums in the United States. The specimen trees, in 1940, represented 43 different species and varieties. Of this number 20 species were native to Hyde Park; nine other were native elsewhere in the United States; and 14 were native to other continents, chiefly Europe and Asia.

The species of foreign origin included, European Ash, European beech, English elm, Norway spruce, Norway maple, Japanese red-leaved maple, and maidenhair tree. This Ginkgo or Chinese maidenhair tree was among the largest of that species in the United States.

Among the native American trees represented were the sugar maple, flowering dogwood, eastern hemlock, Kentucky coffeetree, white oak, black oak, eastern white pine, and blue spruce. Other exquisite representatives of their kind included large weeping beeches, bur oak, and a great cucumber magnolia.

A most pleasing and harmonious balance existed in 1940 between open and wooded land in the park section of the estate. The vegetative cover could be classified into three general categories, as follows:

1. Lawn. with scattered, grouped, or roadside specimen trees and shrubs. There were approximately 10 acres of this highly groomed type of land in the vicinity of the Mansion, extending past the Pavilion on the north and to the Greenhouses and Italian Gardens on the south.
2. Grass Fields. with occasional trees. It was estimated that this type of cover occupied approximately 50 percent of the entire park area, or about 113 acres. Most of these fields were situated on the slope descending westerly from the Mansion grounds to the Hudson, and are called on the Historical Base Map "The Lower Meadows"; and to the north of the Mansion grounds, where they are called on the Historical Base Map, "The Upper Meadows."
3. Native Woods and Tree Plantations. There were roughly 45 acres of this type of cover occurring mainly at the base of the slope in a strip of varying width between the Lower Meadows and the river, along Crum Elbow Creek, and in a narrow belt which served to screen the Albany Post Road along the eastern boundary of the estate.

The vista from the crest of the slope down across the grass fields in the foreground to the fringe of woods, the wide river, and the country beyond was an inspiring and restful one in 1940. The rich charm and beauty of the grounds was enhanced and indeed climaxed by this continuous overlook to the river and beyond.

The well-groomed lawn area had been carefully maintained in 1940 by the use of power lawn mowing equipment.

The grass lands, the Upper and Lower Meadows, had been managed as hay fields - mown annually by a field mower and the hay crop harvested.

South of the Mansion, along the upper part of the slope to the river, the terrain was too steep to permit the use of a field mower. This area had been maintained by being periodically cut by hand.

Further research of an historical nature should be carried out on the trees. Sources useful for this study are as follows:

Plans:

McKim, Mead and White, "Map showing Main Drive...", No. 7488-s, Oct. 10, 1895.

McKin, Mead & White, "Hyde Park, Working Diagram showing proposed location and different gradient schemes, Property of F. W. Vanderbilt." No. 7450-s, 1 sheet, dated Oct. 11, 1895.

McKin, Mead & White, "Topographical Survey....," about 1895.

Morris, O., "Map of Western Portion of Estate....," 1898.

Platt, C. A., "F. W. Vanderbilt....," June 20, 1901, one sheet.

Burly, J. L., "Main Entrance....," 1901.

Burly, J. L., "South Entrance....," 1901.

Arnold, Fred H., "National Park Service Tree Location Sketch, Vanderbilt Mansion N.H.S.," one sheet, dated Sept. 14, 1940.

"Tree Replacement Plan, Vanderbilt Mansion N.H.S.," Drawing No. MHS-VM 2012, dated July 1, 1941.

References:

Snell, C. W., "Early History of Hyde Park"...., contains source material on early period.

BSB, Vol. V, p. 74 (Feb. 17, 1899).

PSC, Sept. 15, 1895, p. 9; July 19, 1896, p. 2; June 27, 1897, p. 3; Feb. 19, 1899, p. 5; Feb. 26, 1899, p. 7; March 12, 1899, p. 7; Jan 28, 1900, p. 3; March 4, 1900, p. 7; July 28, 1901, p. 3; June 8, 1902, p. 3; October 29, 1905, p. 7; Dec. 3, 1905, p. 5; Sept. 16, 1906, p. 6; Feb. 16, 1913, p. 6; Jan. 10, 1915, p. 3; Feb. 3, 1918, p. 26; Feb. 19, 1922, p. 12; Dec. 23, 1923, p. 21.

Arnold, Fred. H., Regional Forester, Memorandum for Regional Director, Region One, July 24, 1940.

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Report Prepared by

Charles W. Snell, Supervisory Park Historian,  
assisted by Historians Edwin C. Dinneen and  
Mary B. Weatherwax.

Dated: February 8, 1957

DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE - CONTENTS

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February 1957

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MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE

VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

DOCUMENTATION OF THE MANSION FLOOR PLANS

Supplement #2 to the Interpretation Section

Prepared by  
Charles W. Snell,  
Historian, Supervisory Park

Dated: February 28, 1957

(1) Basic Data

All remarks in this study of Vanderbilt Mansion are based on the measured drawings "The Mansion," Drawing No. NMS-VM 2015, nine sheets, dated June 26, 1942. Drawn by D. M. C. Hopping, Sheets #1, 2, 3, 4, & 5. It should be noted that the Master Plan Drawings of the 1941 edition, Drawings No. NMS-VM 2007, "The Mansion- First Floor Plan," and No. NMS-VM 2008, "The Mansion - Second Floor Plans," are both inaccurate.

The chief primary plans of the Mansion that have been of value in this study are as follows:

McKim, Mead & White, Architects, 160th Fifth Ave., N. Y., "House for F. W. Vanderbilt Esq., Hyde Park-on-the-Hudson, New York." 15 sheets, dated August 10 - 17, 1896. Sheets #7, 8, 9, 10 (two sheets) and 11.

Warren and Wetmore, Architects, No. 3 East 33rd St., N. Y., "Alterations to Residence of F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, N. Y." 12 sheets, dated March and April 1906.

The other chief primary sources of value are as follows:

Bruguiere, Mrs. Louis: Supt. George A. Palmer, "Memorandum for the Files," May 18, 1948. Report of Mr. Vanderbilt's niece's first visit to Vanderbilt Mansion.

Bruguiere, Mrs. Louis: Supt. George A. Palmer, to Regional Director, Region One, June 5, 1951. Report of second visit.

Clermont, John B., to Director, February 17, 1940. Mr. Clermont was Superintendent of Construction for the company that erected Vanderbilt Mansion.

Clermont, John B.: Historian Charles W. Snell to Supt. George A. Palmer, October 14, 1954, "Report of Visit with Mr. John B. Clermont of Ruby, N. Y., October 13, 1954."

Farley, Mrs. Theresa P., NPS wire recording #7 made October 16, 1947. Mrs. Farley was a Vanderbilt maid from about 1920 to 1938.



Farley, Mrs. T. P., "Interviews", by C. W. Snell, March 1954 & 1957.

"Inventory of Personal Property at Hyde Park, New York, In the Matter of the Estate of Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Deceased. Affidavit of Appraisal," By P. J. Curry Company, Appraiser, No. 82 Wall Street, New York City, N. Y. Made 1938 - 1939.

Martin, Alfred E., MPS Wire Recording #11, made December 3rd and 8th 1947. Mr. Martin served as a Vanderbilt butler from 1909 to 1938.

Samuels, Mr., of French, Inc., N. Y. City, "Additional Information on Contents Vanderbilt Mansion," to Supt. Gertrude S. Cooper, July 31, 1940.

Sherwood, Herbert, editor, H. Siddons Howbray, Mural Painter, 1858 - 1928. Privately printed by Florence Millard Howbray, 1928.

Traudt, Frederick, "Interviews," by C. W. Snell, 1957. Mr. Traudt was the Vanderbilt houseman from 1936 to 1940.

Van Alen, Mrs. Margaret Louise, & Supt. Francis S. Ronalds, Morristown NHP, to Director, June 3, 1940. Report of conference with Mr. Vanderbilt's niece.

## (2) Documentation of Vanderbilt Mansion Floor Plans

### General Data:

The bricks used in the construction of Vanderbilt Mansion were manufactured and purchased from Staples Company of Rondout, Kingston, N. Y. The Western Electric Company did all of the electrical wiring in the Mansion. Lighting fixtures were by Mitchell Vance, of Georges A. Glasner's Company, N. Y. City. The copper roof of the Mansion was installed by John Munro. The columns, pilasters, pediments, brackets in the windows and all other stone carving on the Mansion was done by Leon Buller, a German. All marble used in the Mansion was purchased from Robert C. Fisher Company of New York City, then the largest importers of marble in the United States. The Fisher Company did all of the marble work in the Mansion, including the installation of fireplace mantels that McKim, Mead and White had acquired from various European chateaux. The plaster work throughout the Mansion was done by Norcross Brothers. The tapestry work in the Mansion was done by Georges A. Glasner of New York City.

### References:

Clermont, J. B., "Interview," October 14, 1954.

A. FIRST FLOOR PLAN OF VANDERBILT MANSION.

General References:

"Mansion," Drawing No. NMS-VM 2015, Sheet #3.

McKim, Mead & White, Drawing No. 9, dated August 11, 1896, and redrawn March 8, 1900.

1. Main Entrance Vestibule

The Main Entrance Vestibule is a small room, with a high arched ceiling, which leads from the imposing front portico of the Mansion to the Main Reception Hall.

2. Main Reception Hall

Green and white marble, imported from Italy, is used with arresting effect for cornices and pilasters in the elliptically-shaped Main Reception Hall. The massive fireplace is from an Italian palace (1). The room was designed by McKim, Mead and White. A light well is provided by an octagonal-shaped opening in the ceiling, whence light filters through a skylight in the Second Floor Main Hall directly above. The present light well was designed by the architect Whitney Warren and installed in 1906, replacing the original light well (2). Two doors on the west side of the room open out to the semi-circular portico which overlooks the majestic Hudson Valley.

References:

(1). Samuels, July 31, 1940.

(2). Warren & Wetmore, "Alterations," Sheets 1, 2, 3, 4, dated March 24, 1906.

Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.

3. Mr. Vanderbilt's Office

Mr. Vanderbilt's Office is a comparatively small room paneled in Santa Domingo mahogany, with built-in desk, bookcase, and cupboard to match. The room was designed and decorated by McKim, Mead and White. The fireplace in this room was never used. There is a small toilet room located between this room and the Library, and connected with each room by a door.

References:

McKim, Mead & White: "Lobby," Order No. 189, sheets #11, 12, 13, 14. Undated, but drawn in 1897. Original specifications for room. Considerable variation in actual execution from these plans.

Martin, A., "Interview," 1947. -3-

#### 4. Library and Den

The Library and Den reflects the work of the decorator Georges A. Glaesner of New York City (1). The room is decorated with wood carvings that were made by Swiss artists brought to this country for that purpose (2). The carved mantel of the fireplace is said to have come from a Swiss church (3). This room was used by the Vanderbilts as their family living room(4).

#### References:

McKim, Mead & White: "Den," Order No. 189, sheets #5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, dated August 2, (1897). Original specifications for room. Considerable variation from original plans in actual execution.

(1) Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.

Clermont, J. B., Oct. 14, 1954.

Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

(2) Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.

(3) Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940 said from Swiss church; on May 18, 1948 reported as saying from Spanish church.

Samuels, July 31, 1940, called mantel Swiss or German.

(4) Martin, A., 1947.

Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

#### 5. South Foyer

The South Foyer connects the Main Reception Hall and the Drawing Room.

#### 6. Drawing Room

The twin fireplaces in the Drawing Room are of Italian marble (1). The room was originally decorated by McKim, Mead and White and the original ceiling, with three murals, was painted by H. Siddon Mowbray (2). Mr. Vanderbilt, however, did not like these paintings and had them removed (3). The present walls, which are paneled with exquisitely carved Circassian Walnut, were designed and installed by Whitney Warren in 1906 (4).

References:

- (1) Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.
- (2) Sherwood, H. Siddons Mowbray... p. 66.
- (3) Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948, also interview with Snell, 1955.
- (4) Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.

Warren, "Alterations to ...," Living Room, Building No. 261,  
Drawings No. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, dated April 10, 1906.

7. Gold Room

The Gold Room or eighteenth century French Salon, resplendent in gold leaf and ornolu, is an outstanding example of the Rococo style of the Louis XV period. The room was decorated by Georges A. Glaenzer of New York City (1). The tapestried inset wall panel is Aubusson (2); and two others (one above a marble fireplace) contain large mirrors which, reflecting in one another, provide a striking repetition of mirrors to infinity. It is reported that Mrs. Vanderbilt did not care for this room after its completion and the room was therefore seldom used by the family (3).

References:

- (1) Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.  
Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.  
Clarmont, J. B., Oct. 14, 1954.  
McKim, Mead & White: "Reception Room," Order No. 189, sheets No. 25, 26 & 27. Dated August 1 and 10, (1897). Plans stamped "Georges A. Glaenzer & Co., 88 E. 20th Street, New York City."
- (2) Samuels, July 31, 1940.
- (3) Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.  
Martin, A., 1947.

8. Powder Room

The Powder Room is located off the Main Reception Hall, just to the north of the east entrance door, and contains a sink and toilet facilities.

9. The North Foyer

The North Foyer connects the Main Reception Hall and the Dining Room.

#### 10. Dining Room

This great room is 30 by 50 feet in size. The ceiling is 17 feet high and is made of old Italian handpainted Gesco. Old Italian painted wood panels, purchased by Stanford White and installed by Norcross Brothers, decorate the center of the ceiling (1). On the north side are two great carved Italian Renaissance mantels in marble (2) and the walls are wood paneled. This room was decorated by McKim, Mead and White.

#### References:

- (1) Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.  
Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.  
Clermont, J. B., Oct. 14, 1954.  
Samuels, July 31, 1940.
- (2) Samuels, July 31, 1940.

#### 11. Butlers Pantry

The Butlers Pantry is located just to the east of the North Foyer, and adjacent to the Service Elevator. The room contains a dumb waiter that connects with the basement below and with the balcony above the pantry. The dumb waiter was used to send up food from the kitchen to the first floor. The Butlers Pantry is lined with closets; the one on the north wall was used to store the everyday glassware. The closet in the northeast corner was used for the storage of very fine glassware, glass with a heavy gold trim that was used on special occasions. The closet in the southeast corner was used for the storage of table decorations such as bowls and glass for the center of the table. The large closet on the south wall was used for the storage of very valuable china. The bottom shelf of this closet held the breakfast sets that matched the colors of the various guest rooms, while the second or upper shelf held gold and white china that was used only on special occasions. The closet on the west wall held very valuable French china, such as cups and saucers, that were used in the guest rooms only on Mrs. Vanderbilt's special orders. Two large drawers on the south side of the room were used to store the linen for daily use; linen for each day's use was issued by the Housekeeper from the large Linen Room on the second floor. The silverware was stored in the large safe on the south side of the room. Silver for special occasions was kept on the top shelves while the lower shelves held the silverware for everyday use.

The closets on the balcony were used to store several special sets of china, Waterford glass, and a set of glass with gold rims, that were used only on special occasions.

In 1940 the Butlers Pantry had a sink located on the east wall, with two white marble topped sideboards on either side of it. All silverware and china were washed in this room by the parlor maid. A plate warmer was located on the north counter. On the west wall there was originally an icebox which was filled daily with fresh ice. In the other corner of the west wall there stood a small cupboard which contained the estate telephone that connected with the Power House and Coach House.

References:

Martin, A., 1947.

12. Grand Staircase

Refined elegance characterizes the Grand Staircase of Italian marble that leads in four flights from the first to the second floor of the Mansion.

B. SECOND FLOOR PLAN OF VANDERBILT MANSION

General References:

"Mansion," Drawing No. NHS-VM 2015, Sheet #4.

McKim, Mead & White: Sheet #10, dated August 12, 1896 and Sheet #10 Revised, dated February 18, 1897.

1. Second Floor Main Hall

The Second Floor Main Hall is particularly interesting because of the balustrade which surrounds the octoganal-shaped light well in the Main Reception Hall directly below. This, and the present walls and ceiling of the Second Floor Main Hall were designed and installed by Whitney Warren in 1906. The original light well was of a different shape with colored panes of glass in the skylight.

References:

Warren: "Alterations...", Second Story Hall, Building No. 261, Drawings No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, dated March 24, 1906.

Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.

Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

For original light well see: "Plan of Second Story Hall showing proposed change in Light Well, F. W. Vanderbilt Esq., Hyde Park-on-the-Hudson," No date but probably drawn by McKim, Mead and White in early 1897.

2. Second Floor North Hallway

The Second Floor North Hallway connects the Blue Room and Mauve Room with the Second Floor Main Hall.



### 3. Blue Room

The Blue Room (or Guest Room No. 1) is entered from the west side of the Second Floor North Hallway. Largest of the guest rooms, this was occupied by Mrs. Margaret Louise Van Alen, niece of Mrs. Vanderbilt (1). The room takes its name from the color of the wallpaper. Its color decoration, done by McKim, Mead and White, is principally blue, with white and gray. The present wallpaper, secured in Europe in 1935, is an exact copy of the original 1898 paper (2).

#### References:

(1) Bruguieres, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

(2) Ibid.

### 4. Bath #1

Bath room #1 connects with the Blue Room and carries out the same color motif as the Blue Room.

### 5. Mauve Room

The Mauve Room (or Guest Room #2) is entered from the east side of the Second Floor North Hallway and is decorated in lavender and white. The room takes its name from the color of the wallpaper. The present wallpaper which was secured in Europe in 1935, is an exact copy of the original 1898 paper (1). The room was decorated by McKim, Mead and White. A door in the southeast corner of the room leads into Bath #2 and through the Bath to the Green Room, so that the Mauve and Green Rooms could be used as a two-room suite.

#### References:

(1) Bruguieres, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

### 6. Bath #2

Bath #2 connects with the Green Room and the Mauve Room. The Bath carries out the same color motif as the Mauve Room.

### 7. Green Room

The Green Room (or Bedroom) is entered by the Service Door from the Second Floor North Hallway on the east side, or from Bath #2. The Green Room could be used with the Mauve Room to form a two-room suite. The Green Room takes its name from the color of the felt-lined door. The walls are covered with the original 1898 lavender paper and was decorated by McKim, Mead and White.

### 8 & 9. The Two Red Rooms

The two Red Rooms (or Guest Rooms #3 and #4) are entered from the west side of the Second Floor Main Hall and are connected by a door to form a two-room suite. The larger Red Room (Guest Room #4) is decorated in rose. The room takes its name from the color of the wallpaper, which was secured in Europe in 1935 and is an exact copy of the 1898 paper(1). The mantel in the larger Red Room is an eighteenth century English Georgian piece (2). The smaller Red Room (or Guest Room #3) is decorated in lavender; this room also takes its name from its 1898 wallpaper. Both Red Rooms were decorated by McKim, Mead and White.

#### References:

- (1) Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.
- (2) Samuels, July 31, 1940.

### 10. Bath #3

Bath #3 is entered from the larger Red Room (Guest Room #4) and carries out the same color motif as the larger Red Room.

### 11. Second Floor South Hallway

The Second Floor South Hallway connects the rooms of Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt with the Second Floor Main Hall. French doors in the Second Floor South Hallway can be closed to separate this wing from the rest of the second floor.

### 12. Mr. Vanderbilt's Room

Mr. Vanderbilt's Room is wainscoted in carved (Circassian) walnut from Russia and the walls are paneled with seventeenth-century Flemish tapestry (1). The bed, dresser, and bookcase are designed as a part of the woodwork. The room was decorated by Georges A. Glaenser of New York City (2) and the woodwork was installed by Norcross Brothers (3). The fireplace has a large carved Italian Renaissance mantel (4).

#### References:

- (1) "Inventory of Personal Property ...," p. 38.  
Samuels, July 31, 1940.
- (2) Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.  
Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.  
Clemont, J. B., Oct. 14, 1954.

Mc Kim, Mead & White: "Bedroom No. 1," Order No. 189, Sheets #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 22, 23, 24, & 33. Dated October 26, 1897.

(3) Clermont, J. B., Oct. 14, 1954.

(4) Samuels, July 31, 1940.

14. Bath #4.

Bath #4 was Mr. Vanderbilt's and adjoins his room. His bathroom also contains a large wardrobe room.

15. Mrs. Vanderbilt's Room

This room, designed by Ogden Codman (1), is a reproduction of a French Queen's bedroom of the Louis XV period (2). The bed is surrounded by a rail. The wall at the head of the bed is covered with hand-embroidered silk. The other three walls are wood paneled and inset with French paintings. Mrs. Vanderbilt found the original paintings used by Codman to decorate the room so unpleasant that she had them removed and replaced them with the present paintings (3). The east and west walls of the room contain large mirrors which, reflecting in one another, provide a striking repetition of mirrors to infinity. The south wall also contains a large mirror over the marble fireplace. The walls are gray and gold in color.

References:

(1) Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.

Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

McKim, Mead & White: "Bedroom No. 6," Order No. 189, sheets #17, 18, 19, 20, & 21. Dated June 10, 1897.

"Decorations for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, New York, Designed and Executed by Ogden Codman, Jr., 281 Fourth Avenue, New York," Four sheets, undated, for Mrs. Vanderbilt's Room. Photostatic copies of plans. Originals in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, N. Y. City.

(2) Samuels, July 31, 1940.

(3) Bruguiere, Mrs., June 4, 1951.

16. Mrs. Vanderbilt's Boudoir

Mrs. Vanderbilt's Boudoir was also decorated by Ogden Codman in the same style as her bedroom (1). Opening off the west wall is a wardrobe room for storing dresses, and off the northwest corner a small room for hats.

References:

(1) Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.

Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

"Decorations for F. W. Vanderbilt, Esq., Hyde Park, New York, Designed and Executed by Ogden Codman, Jr., 281 Fourth Avenue, New York," Four sheets, undated. Photostatic copies. Original Plans in Metropolitan Museum of Art, N. Y. City.

17. Bath #5

Bath #5 was Mrs. Vanderbilt's and adjoins her Boudoir.

18. Linen Room

The Linen Room is entered from the northeast corner of the Second Floor Main Hall. Linen for the Dining Room and all linen for the guest rooms were stored in this room.

References:

Farley, Mrs., February 15, 1957.

"Inventory of Personal Property ...," p. 143.

19. Third Floor Stairway

A stairway leads from the east side of the Second Floor Main Hall to the Third Floor Guest Hallway. The stairway has an elaborate wooden bannister.

C. THIRD FLOOR PLAN OF VANDERBILT MANSION

General References:

"Mansion," Drawing No. NHS-VM 2015, sheet #5.

McKim, Mead & White, Sheet #11, dated August 13, 1896.

All third floor guest rooms, except where otherwise noted, were decorated by McKim, Mead, and White.

(1) Third Floor Guest Hall

The Third Floor Guest Hall leads to the Third Floor Guest Rooms. The Hall is wainscoted in white and the wallpaper is green.

(2) Striped Room

The Striped Room (Room #14 on VM 2015) is a small guest room decorated with a green and lavender striped wallpaper, which dates back to 1898. The room was also sometimes used by Mrs. Vanderbilt's personal secretary.

References:

Farley, Mrs., February 20, 1957.

(3). Pink Room

The Pink Room (or Guest Room D) is a large guest room decorated with pink wallpaper. The room takes its name from the color of the paper. After Mrs. Vanderbilt's death in 1926, Mr. Vanderbilt quite often used the Pink Room when he visited Hyde Park during the winter months and his room on the second floor was closed.

References:

Farley, Mrs., March 26, 1954.

(4). Little Mauve Room

The Little Mauve Room (or Guest Room C) is a good size guest room decorated with mauve colored patterned wallpaper. The room takes its name from the paper. The oak bedroom set in this room was the first one purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt after their marriage in 1878.

References:

Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.  
Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

(5). Bath #6.

Bath #6 (or Bath #2 on VM 2015) is located between the Pink Room and the Little Mauve Room and can be entered from the Third Floor Guest Hall as well as from either guest room.

(6). Empire Room

The Empire Room (or Guest Room A) is a large guest room. The walls of this room are decorated with a yellow satin that matches the satin coverings of the Empire Period bedroom set in this room. The room takes its name from this furniture. Mr. Vanderbilt decorated this room himself, choosing the furniture and satin wall covering.

References:

Bruguiere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

(7). Bath #7

Bath #7 (or Bath #1 on VM 2015) is located between the Empire Room and the White Room. The Bath can be entered from the Third Floor Guest Hall as well as from either of the two guest rooms.

7a. White Room

The White Room (or Guest Room B) is a large guest room. The walls of the room are wood paneled and painted white. The room takes its name from the color of the walls. The furniture in the room is also painted white.

References:

Farley, Mrs., March 26, 1954.



(8) Third Floor Servants Hall

The Third Floor Servants Hall connects with the Third Floor Guest Hall by means of a door so that the two sections can be closed off from one another. The walls of the Servants Hall are painted green. All of the women servants of the Mansion staff were quartered on the third floor.

(9) Chamber Maid's Room, Room #1

Servant's Room #1 was assigned to one of the four Chamber Maids of the mansion staff. The walls of the room were originally painted green. The original furniture in the room included: one iron single bed, one oak dresser with mirror, two oak wash stands, one small table, one oak side chair with cane seat, one wicker chair, one metal bridge lamp with a paper shade, and one domestic rug.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.  
"Inventory...., "1938-1939, p. 91 Room #1).

(10) Chamber Maid's Room, Room #2

Servant's Room #2 was assigned to one of the four Chamber Maids of the mansion staff. The walls of the room were originally painted green. The original furniture in this room in 1938 included: One iron single bed, wire spring, hair mattress and two pillows, one oak dresser with mirror, one oak small table, one oak wash stand, one bridge lamp with paper shade, two white painted bamboo side chairs, one white painted rocker with cane seat, one 9' x 12' domestic rug (red field with flowers).

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.  
"Inventory...., "1938-1939, p. 91 (Room #2).

(11). Chamber Maid's Room, Room #3

Servant's Room #3 was assigned to one of the four Chamber Maids of the Mansion staff. The walls of the room were originally painted green. Original furniture in the room included: two iron single beds, one Birds-eye maple bureau with oval mirror, one Birds-eye maple wash stand, one Birds-eye small table, one Birds-eye rocker, two Birds-eye side chairs, one wicker round small table, two oak rockers, two misc. side chairs, six pillows, one Blue damask love-seat, and one electrolux vacuum cleaner.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.  
"Inventory...., "1938-1939, p. 91 (Room #3)

(12) Chamber Maid's Room, Room #4

Servants Room #4 was assigned to one of the four Chamber Maids of the mansion staff. The walls of the room were originally painted green. Original furniture in the room included: one iron single bed, one white dresser with mirror, one white painted clothes press, two metal side chairs, two wood side chairs, and one domestic mat.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.  
"Inventory....," 1938-39, p. 91-92 (Room #4).

(13) Personal Maid's Room, Room #5

Servant's Room #5 was used as a bedroom for personal maids of guests. The walls of the room were originally painted green. Original furniture in the room included: one green enamel full size bed, one green enamel dresser with mirror, with two long and two short drawers, one green enamel night stand, one cream enamel costumer, one cream enamel small rocker, one cream enamel side chair with cane seat, one cream enamel dressing table with three ply mirror and bench, one metal bridge lamp, one Adam-style lady's desk in satinwood, one goose-neck metal night lamp, one wicker arm chair, one very old Singer sewing machine and one rose carpet.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.  
"Inventory....," 1938-39, p. 92 (Room #5).

(14). Personal Maid's Room, Room #6

Servant's Room #6 was used as a bedroom for personal maids of guests. The walls of the room were originally painted green. Original furniture in the room included: one brass single bed, one mahogany chiffonier with mirror and six drawers, one mahogany dressing table with mirror, one mahogany night stand, one mahogany costumer, two white painted side chairs, one white painted small table, one white painted rocker, one night lamp with silk shade, and one domestic rug, 9' x 12', blue with flowers.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.  
"Inventory....," 1938-39, pp. 92-93 (Room #6).

(15) Bath #8

Bath #8 (or Bath #3 on VM 2015) is located between Servants' Rooms #5 and #6 and is entered from the Third Floor Servants Hall. Original

furniture included one wall mirror with a white painted frame, one white painted chair and three Mohair mats.

References:

"Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 93.

(16) Parlor Maid's Room, Room #7.

Servant's Room #7 was assigned to the Parlor Maid. The walls of the room were originally painted green. Original furniture in the room included: one iron single bed, one oak wash stand, one oak dresser, two oak side chairs, one oak arm chair, one green metal umbrella table for porch, one metal floor lamp, and one domestic rug, 9' x 12', blue with flowers.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.

"Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 93 (Room #7).

(17) Kitchen Girl's Room, Room #8

Servant's Room #8 was assigned to the Kitchen Girl. The walls of the room were originally painted green. Original furniture in the room included: one iron single bed, one oak dresser, one oak wash stand, one green metal umbrella table for porch, one oak side chair, one brass night lamp, and one domestic rug 9' x 12', blue with flowers.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.

"Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 93 Room #8.

(18) Sewing and Pressing Room, Room #9

Servant's Room #9 was used by the women sarvants as a sewing and pressing room. The walls of the room were originally painted green. Original furniture in the room included: one old Singer sewing machine, one oak wash stand, and one trunk.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942

"Inventory...", "1938-1939, p. 93 (Room #9).

(19) Bath #9

Bath #9 (or Bath #4 on VM 2015) is located between Servants Rooms #8 and #9, and is entered from the Third Floor Servants Hall. The room was furnished with one white painted chair in 1938.

References:

"Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 93.

(20) First Cook's Room, Room #10

Servant's Room #10 was assigned to the First Cook. The walls of this room were originally painted green. Original furniture included: one iron single bed, two oak small tables, one goose-neck night lamp, two oak dressers, one maple side chair with cane seat, one Windsor arm chair, and one domestic rug 9' x 12', rose with flowers.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.

"Inventory...", 1938-39, pp. 93-94 (Room #10).

(21) Second Cook's Room, Room #11

Servant's room #11 was assigned to the Second Cook. The walls of this room were originally painted green. Original furniture included: one iron single bed, one oak small table, one maple side chair with cane seat, one oak dresser, one oak wash stand, one oak rocker with cane seat.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.

"Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 94 (Room #11).

(22) Linen Room

The third floor Linen Room was used to store the linen used in the servants bedrooms and baths.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.

"Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 150.

(23) Yacht Room

The Third Floor Yacht Room was used as a general storage room.

Reference:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.

(24) Housekeeper's Sitting Room, Room #12

Servant's Room #12 was the Housekeeper's Room and connected with

Servant's Room #13 to form a two-room suite. The walls of room #12 were originally papered with a blue wallpaper (traces of same remain behind radiator). The original furniture in the room included: one pair of mahogany elbow arm chairs with chintz seats and backs, one chintz chaise lounge, one old-style blue plush arm chair, one mahogany dresser and mirror with three long and three short drawers, one small tripod stand, one mahogany drop-lid desk with three drawers, two white enamel tables, two mahogany side chairs with spindle backs and blue chintz seats, one blue wicker side chair, one small mahogany bench with blue chintz slip seat, three sofa cushions, two blue cotton table covers, one nickel oil lamp, two pair narrow curtains in chintz, one mahal rug of Fereghan design, dark coloring 9'10" x 11'2", one water color - "Bagpipe Player" by Charles Missonier, 7½" x 12", one water color - "The Duel", by Charles Missonier, 12 x 15½", one water color - "Two Angels" by Chartrass, 5½" x 12½", one copy colored print "Le Nouveau Commis", copy after Vibert, 18" x 15½" and three misc. pictures.

References:

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.

"Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 80.

(25) Housekeeper's Bedroom, Room #13

Servant's Room #13 was on the Housekeeper's Bedroom and connected with Room #12 to form a two-room suite. The walls of Room #13 were originally painted blue (traces of same remain behind radiator). The room was furnished with one brass single bed, one small oak stand, one white painted costumer, gray enamel furniture consisting of: one table with glass top and one drawer, one chiffonier, two side chairs, one dressing table with three ply mirror, one elbow chair, one night table, one arm chair with blue satin upholstery. One color engraving by Clifford E. James, 13½" x 15"; three water colors by Linden, 13" x 19"; three misc. prints, one Asia Minor Rug, angora wool, red coloring, 7' x 7'10". One Shiraz rug, dark coloring with geometric design, 4.3' x 5.7'; and one India Agra rug, small floral design, 3.3' x 5'.

(26). Bathroom #10

Bath #10 (or Bath #5 on VM 2015) is entered from the Housekeeper's Bedroom, Room #13, and was her personal bath. In 1938 the room contained two small size mohair mats.

References: for Room #13 and Bath #10.

"Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 79.

Farley, Mrs., May 1942.

D. BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN OF VANDERBILT MANSION

General References:

"Mansion", Drawing No. NMS-VM 2015, Sheet #2.  
McKim, Mead & White: Sheet #8, dated August 13, 1896.

1. Basement Hall

A large Hall runs the length of the Basement. The Hall and all other rooms in the Basement, except where otherwise noted, were originally painted a buff color (1). The Basement Hall was originally furnished with three wooden tables (2). All of the men servants of the mansion staff were quartered in the Basement.

References:

Traudt, F., February 15, 1957. (1)  
(2) "Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 96.

2. Refrigerator

A refrigerator or Ice Room is located to the west side of the Basement Hall at the north end of the hall. The plate on the Refrigerator reads: "The Lorillard, 1168 Broadway, N. Y. City".

3. Servants' Dining Room

The Servants Dining Room is the large room entered from the west side of the north end of the Basement Hall. The walls were originally painted green, the ceiling painted white, and the wood trim of the room had a varnish finish. The servants of the household staff used this room as their dining and recreation room. The room was originally equipped with a large dining table and from 20 to 25 chairs. There were also two rocking chairs and one straight chair located near the fireplace. A serving table was located on the south wall of the room and there was also a victrola standing in the northwest corner of the room. The walls were decorated with pictures of fruit. The closet in the southeast corner was used as the Servants' Cloak Room. The small room opening off the southwest corner of the Servants' Dining Room was originally the Servants' Pantry and contained a sink and china closet.

References:

Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7.

4. Visiting Valets Bedroom, Bedroom #1

Visiting Valets Bedroom is entered from the northwest side of the oval-shaped portion of the Basement Hall. This bedroom was used to quarter the valets of guests. The room was originally furnished with two iron single beds, two oak dressers, two oak wash stands, two oak small



tables, two chairs, and one 8' x 10' domestic rug. (2)

References:

- (1) Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7.
- (2) "Inventory....," p. 105 (Room #4).

(5) Yacht Room

The Basement Yacht Room is located just to the east of the Visiting Valets Room. This small room was used for storage.

References:

Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7 and 1957.

(6) Vase Closet

The small closet located just across the hall from the Yacht Room, on the west wall of the oval-shaped portion of the Basement Hall, was used for the storage of vases.

References:

Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7.  
"Inventory....," 1938-39, p. 103.

(7) Soap Closet

The Soap Closet is located just to the left of the Vase Closet, on the northwest side of the oval-shaped portion of the Basement Hall. The Soap Closet was used for the storage of soap, mops, pails and brooms.

References:

Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7.

(8) Trunk Room

The Trunk Room is located on the west side of the oval-shaped portion of the Basement Hall and was used for storage.

References:

Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7.  
"Inventory....," 1938-39, p. 95.

(9) Dressing Room

Opening off the southwest side of the oval-shaped portion of the

Basement Hall is the Pressing Room (or Boot Room on VM 2015). This room was used for ironing.

References:

Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7.

(10) Store Room

The Store Room is located just south of the oval-shaped portion of the Basement Hall, on the west wall. One originally large room has been divided into two rooms by means of a wooden partition. The Store Room is the northern half of the original room and was used for storage.

References:

Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7.

(11) Day and Night Men's Room, Bedroom #2

Basement Bedroom #2 is located just south of the oval-shaped portion of the Basement Hall, on the west wall. One originally large room has been divided into two rooms by means of a wooden partition. Bedroom #2 is located in the southern half of the original room. Bedroom #2 was used by the Day Man or Houseman and the Night Watchman to change their clothes in. (1). The room was originally furnished with one iron single bed, two oak wash stands, one oak wardrobe, two oak side chairs, and one Mohair arm chair (2).

References:

- (1) Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7.
- (2) "Inventory....," 1938-39, p. 105 (Room #3).

(12) Butler's Room, Bedroom #3.

Basement Bedroom #3 is entered from the west side of the south end of the Basement Hall, and is located immediately south of Bedroom #2. Bedroom #3 was used by one of the three butlers on the household staff (1). Bedroom #3 was originally furnished with one iron single bed, two oak small tables, one oak dresser with mirror, one oak wash stand, one veneered Morris chair, one oak side chair, one shaving stand with mirror, and one 10' x 12" domestic carpet (2).

References:

- Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7. (1)
- (2) "Inventory....," 1938-39, p. 105 (Room #2)

(13) Butler's Room, Bedroom #4

Basement Bedroom #4 is entered from the west side of the south end of the Basement Hall, and is located immediately south of Basement Bedroom #3. Bedroom #4 was assigned to one of the three butlers on the household staff (1). Bedroom #4 was originally furnished with one iron single bed, two oak Morris chairs with cotton seats and backs, one oak wash stand, one oak dresser with mirror, one oak small size desk with revolving chair, one oak small table, and one 9' x 12" domestic rug. (2)

References:

- (1) Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7.
- (2) "Inventory....," 1938-39, p. 105 (Room #1).

(14) Servants' Store Room

The Servants' Store Room is located at the south end of the Basement Hall and the room was used for the storage of their personal baggage.

References:

Farley, Mrs., Feb. 15, 1957.

(15) Main Laundry

The Main Laundry is entered from the east side of the south end of the Basement Hall. The Main Laundry originally contained an iron coal-burning stove, three laundry tables, and two side chairs.

References:

"Inventory....," 1938-39, p. 95.

(16) Laundry Drying Room

The "Troy" Drying Room is located on the west wall of the Main Laundry and contains a number of large sliding metal drying racks, with a system of steam pipes for drying laundry.

(17) Servants' Laundry

The Servants' Laundry is located just north of the Main Laundry and is entered from the east side of the south end of the Basement Hall. The room was used as the Servants' Laundry Room and was originally furnished with an iron coal-burning stove and one laundry table.

References:

"Inventory....," 1938-39, p. 95.

(18) Butler's Room, Bedroom #5

Basement Bedroom #5 was assigned to one of the three butlers on the household staff. (1). Bedroom #5 is located immediately north of the Servants' Laundry and is entered from the southeast side of the oval-shaped portion of the Basement Hall. The room was originally furnished with one iron single bed, one oak wash stand, one oak Morris chair, one oak dresser with mirror, one oak small table, two chairs, one metal bridge lamp, and one 4' x 6' domestic mat (2).

References:

- (1) Farley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7.
- (2) "Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 106 (Room #5).

(19) Bath #11

Bath #11 (or Men's Bathroom on VM 2015) is located immediately north of Basement Bedroom #5 and is entered from the east side of the oval-shaped portion of the Basement Hall. Bath #11 was the one bath in the Mansion assigned to the men servants of the staff.

(20) Wine Cellar

The Wine Cellar is located immediately north of Bath #11, and is entered from the east side of the oval-shaped portion of the Basement Hall. The Wine Cellar is divided into four small rooms by means of wooden partitions.

References:

"Inventory...", 1938-39, pp. 152-153.

(21) Women Servants Toilet Room

The Women Servants Toilet Room (Women's Toilet Room on VM 2015) is located immediately north of the Wine Cellar, and is entered from the northeast side of the oval-shaped portion of the Basement Hall.

(22) Service Hall, Elevator, and Stairway

The Service Hall is located immediately north of the Women Servants' Toilet Room, and is entered from the east side of the northern portion of the Basement Hall. The Service Hall leads to an elevator and a flight of metal circular stairs, both of which run from the Basement to the Third Floor. The Service Hall also connects with the Housekeeper's Dining Room and the Pastry Room.

(23) Housekeeper's Dining Room

The Housekeeper's Dining Room is entered from the Service Hall, and is located on the east side of the mansion basement. The original furniture in this room included: one oak round table, one oak drop-lid desk and chair, two oak side chairs, one mahogany rocker with plush seat and back, one oak book rack, one oak drop-and table, one metal bridge lamp, and one rose carpet.

References:

"Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 95.

(24) Pastry Room

The Pastry Room is located on the east side of the mansion basement, and is entered from the south by the Service Hall and from the north by way of the Kitchen. The Pastry Room contains the dumb waiter by means of which food was sent from the Kitchen up to the Butlers Pantry on the first floor.

(25) Kitchen

The Kitchen is located on the east side of the mansion basement, and can be entered either from the east side of the northern end of the Basement Hall or from the Pastry Room to the south. The walls of the Kitchen are covered with white tile. The Kitchen was equipped by DuParquet, Huot, and Monause Company, a French firm with offices in New York City, Boston, and Chicago (1). The Kitchen was originally furnished with two marble top kitchen tables, one zinc top kitchen table, one wall clock, four chairs, one butcher's chopping block, one marble mixing bowl with wood stand, and various kitchen crockery, pyrex glassware, white enamel pots and 38 copper pots and saucepans (2).

References:

- (1) Clermont, J. B., Oct. 14, 1954. Name of firm also on range.
- (2) "Inventory...", 1938-39, p. 96.

(26) Stairway to Sub-Basement

The door and metal Stairway leading to the Sub-Basement are located on the west side of the northern portion of the Basement Hall, just south of the Servants' Dining Room.

E. SUB-BASEMENT PLAN OF VANDERBILT MANSION

General References:

"Mansion", NMS-VM 2015, Sheet #1.

"McKim, Mead & White": Sheet #7, dated August 13, 1896.

The heating plant of the Mansion, two 50 HP brick-set return tubular, coal-burning, steel boilers, installed in 1897 by Baker-Smith Company of New York City, was located in 1940 in the Sub-Basement. Also located in the Sub-Basement were a hand-fired coal-burning boiler used to heat a 300 to 400 gallon storage tank that supplied domestic hot water for the Mansion, coal bins, a sand filter used to filter water supplied to the Mansion by the estate water system, and a transformer used for the operation of the electrical elevator.

Report prepared by:

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Dated: February 28, 1957