

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

D-10

STORAGE

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
(Park 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



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Memorandum

To: Chief, SEEC
From: Acting 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 NRS VM 2007 (The Mansion - First Floor) and NRS VM 2008 (The Mansion - Second Floor) were inaccurate and should be redrawn to reflect changes made during construction and the years subsequent. Documentation by then Park Historian Small accompanied the memorandum cited, and recommended revision on the basis of measured drawing of the Mansion made in 1942 (Drawing NRS 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

DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE - CONTENTS

VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

February 1957

DOCUMENTATION OF MANSION FLOOR PLANS (24 pages) Date
2/28/57

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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 26, 1957

(1) Basic Data

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

Brugniere, 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.

Brugniere, 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., NPS 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 Moberly, Mural Painter, 1858 - 1928. Privately printed by Florence Millard Moberly, 1928.

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

Van Allen, Mrs. Margaret Louise, & Supt. Francis S. Ronalds, Horristown 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. Glaesner'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. Glaesner of New York City.

Reference:

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

A. FIRST FLOOR PLAN OF VANDERBILT MANSION.

General References:

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

McKin, 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 McKin, 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 McKin, 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:

McKin, 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:

McKin, 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 McKin, 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 Conway... p. 66.
- (3) Brugliere, Mrs., May 18, 1948, also interview with Shell, 1955.
- (4) Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.
Warren, "Alterations to ..." Dining 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. Glanzer 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.
Brugliere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.
Clement, J. B., Oct. 14, 1954.
Klein, Wand & White: "Reception Room," Order No. 189, sheets No. 25, 26 & 27. Dated August 1 and 10, (1897). Plans stamped "Georges A. Glanzer & Co., 88 E. 20th Street, New York City."
- (2) Samuels, July 31, 1940.
- (3) Brugliere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.
Harkin, 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 Tower

The North Tower 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 Cassco. Old Italian painted wood panels, purchased by Stamford White and installed by Morross 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 Kelling, Head and White.

Informants:

- (1) Van Allen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.
Brugliere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.
Clement, J. B., Oct. 14, 1954.
Samuels, July 21, 1940.
- (2) Samuels, July 21, 1940.

11. Butlers Partry

The Butlers Partry is located just to the east of the North Payer, and adjacent to the Service Elevator. The room contains a dumb waiter that connects with the basement below and with the balcony above the partry. The dumb waiter was used to send up food from the kitchen to the first floor. The Butlers Partry 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 glasses 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 watched 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 turned 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 trim, 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 locker which was filled daily with fresh tea. 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:

Kerlin, A., 1947.

12. Grand Staircase

Noted designs characterize 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. MS-VM 2015, Sheet #4.

Hellin, Head & Walter: 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 octagonal-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's "Alterations...." Second Story Hall, Building No. 261, Drawings No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, dated March 24, 1906.

Van Alen, Mrs., June 3, 1940.

Brugolere, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

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

2. Second Floor North Hallway

The Second Floor North Hallway connects the Five Room and Nursery 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 grey. The present wallpaper, secured in Europe in 1935, is an exact copy of the original 1898 paper (2).

References:

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

(2) Idid.

4. Bath #1

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

5. Marve Room

The Marve 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 Marve and Green Rooms could be used as a two-room suite.

References:

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

6. Bath #2

Bath #2 connects with the Green Room and the Marve Room. The Bath carries out the same color motif as the Marve 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 Marve 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. Glensner 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.
Clement, J. B., Oct. 14, 1954.

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

(3) Clement, 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.

Brugniere, 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) Brugniere, 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., 261 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 banister.

C. THIRD FLOOR PLAN OF VANDERBILT MANSION

General References:

"Mansion," Drawing No. MB3-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:

Parley, 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:

Parley, Mrs., March 26, 1954.

(4). Little Nerve Room

The Little Nerve Room (or Guest Room C) is a good size guest room decorated with marro 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.
Bouglerre, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

(5). Bath #6.

Bath #6 (or Bath #2 on VH 2015) is located between the Pink Room and the Little Nerve 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:

Bouglerre, Mrs., May 18, 1948.

(7). Bath #7

Bath #7 (or Bath #1 on VH 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 woman 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 miss. 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 VH 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 servants 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 #2

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.

References:

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 longue, 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 metal rug of Fereghan design, dark coloring 9'10" x 11'2", one water color - "Bagpipe Player" by Charles Missonier, 7 1/2" x 12", one water color - "The Duel", by Charles Missonier, 12" x 15 1/2", one water color - "Two Angels" by Chartreux, 5 1/2" x 12 1/2", one copy colored print "Le Nouveau Caudis", copy after Vibert, 18" x 15 1/2" 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 Cliford E. James, 13 1/2" 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 VN 2015) is entered from the Housekeeper's Bedroom, Room #13, and was her personal bath. In 1938 the room contained two small size wchair 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:

"Mansions", Drawing No. SMS-VM 2015, Sheet #2.
Mekin, Kendall & 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:

Trumbull, T., 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 Lorrillard, 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 round tables 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 closest in the southeast corner was used as the Servants' Cloak Room. The small room opening off the southeast corner of the Servants' Dining Room was originally the Servants' Partry and contained a sink and china closet.

References:

Parley, Mrs., Wire Recording #7.

b. 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 VH 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 VH 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 main basement. The original furniture in this room included: one oak round table, one oak drop-leaf 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) Pantry Room

The Pantry Room is located on the east side of the main basement, and is entered from the south by the Service Hall and from the north by way of the Kitchen. The Pantry Room contains the drain water 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 main basement, and can be entered either from the east side of the northern end of the Basement Hall or from the Pantry Room to the south. The walls of the Kitchen are covered with white tile. The Kitchen was equipped by DuParquet, Hunt, and Hennessy 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 pine 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) Glusman, 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-BASIMENT PLAN OF VANDERBILT MANSION

General References:

"Mansion", HB-VH 2015, Sheet 7L.

"Plan", Wood & White's, Sheet 77, 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



