Roosevelt–Vanderbilt
National Historic Sites

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

General Management Plan
2010

Roosevelt–Vanderbilt

National Historic Sites

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TOP COTTAGE

General Management Plan

HOME OF FDR

VANDERBILT MANSION

VAL-KILL

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Boston, Massachusetts
2010

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Message from the Superintendent

On April 12, 1946, one year after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's death, his home in Hyde Park, New York, was opened to the public as a national historic site. The few National Park Service personnel assigned there were hard-pressed to accommodate the streams of visitors who wanted to see the home. Managing these crowds might have been an overwhelming task for this first band of employees, but at least they did not have to worry much about "interpretation"—the National Park Service term for explaining the meaning of the park to visitors. The people who waited in line in 1946, and long afterward, needed no explanation of who Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt were, or their place in American history. For many years the American public had been absorbed with the lives of the Roosevelts and, although they often disagreed vehemently about particular policies, to some degree Americans viewed the Roosevelts as part of an extended family.

This remained largely true through Eleanor Roosevelt's lifetime. Since her death in 1962, this familiarity has been steadily disappearing. In 2012 we will observe the 130th anniversary of Franklin D. Roosevelt's birth and the 50th anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt's death. Each year the number of people who have personal recollection of the Roosevelts' lives diminishes.

Yet FDR took great care to preserve his legacy, and the National Park Service is committed to operating its three historic sites in Hyde Park—Home of FDR, Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill, and Vanderbilt Mansion—in perpetuity, as with all units of the national park system. Even as the Roosevelts recede in memory, the issues they grappled with remain as timely as the latest news. The Roosevelt parks provide a lens through which we can examine political questions that remain vital. Changing conditions call attention to the enduring Roosevelt legacy in unexpected ways, as the economic crisis that began in 2008 and its frequent references to the Great Depression remind us. One of the critical issues we face is how to use park resources to demonstrate the continuing relevance of the Roosevelts and Vanderbilts, and their relationship to these places, for generations who have no personal experience with that time.

This is one of several challenges that confront us in the management of the three Hyde Park sites, and is among the reasons a new general management plan is needed. Although constructing a management plan can be a

People lined up to tour the FDR Home in 1946

lengthy process, it offers an exceptional opportunity to re-examine the parks from the perspective of greatly changed conditions and to make decisions based on that new information. The plan that follows represents the sustained thought and effort of many people, both in the National Park Service and among members of the public. It is intended to set out a course of action that will convey the importance of these sites to a new audience in a new century.

As we proceed with the implementation of the general management plan, we look forward to working closely with our neighbors, partners, and community members to uphold and advance the enduring legacy of these special places.

Sincerely,

Sarah Olson
Superintendent
Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites

Background

Introduction

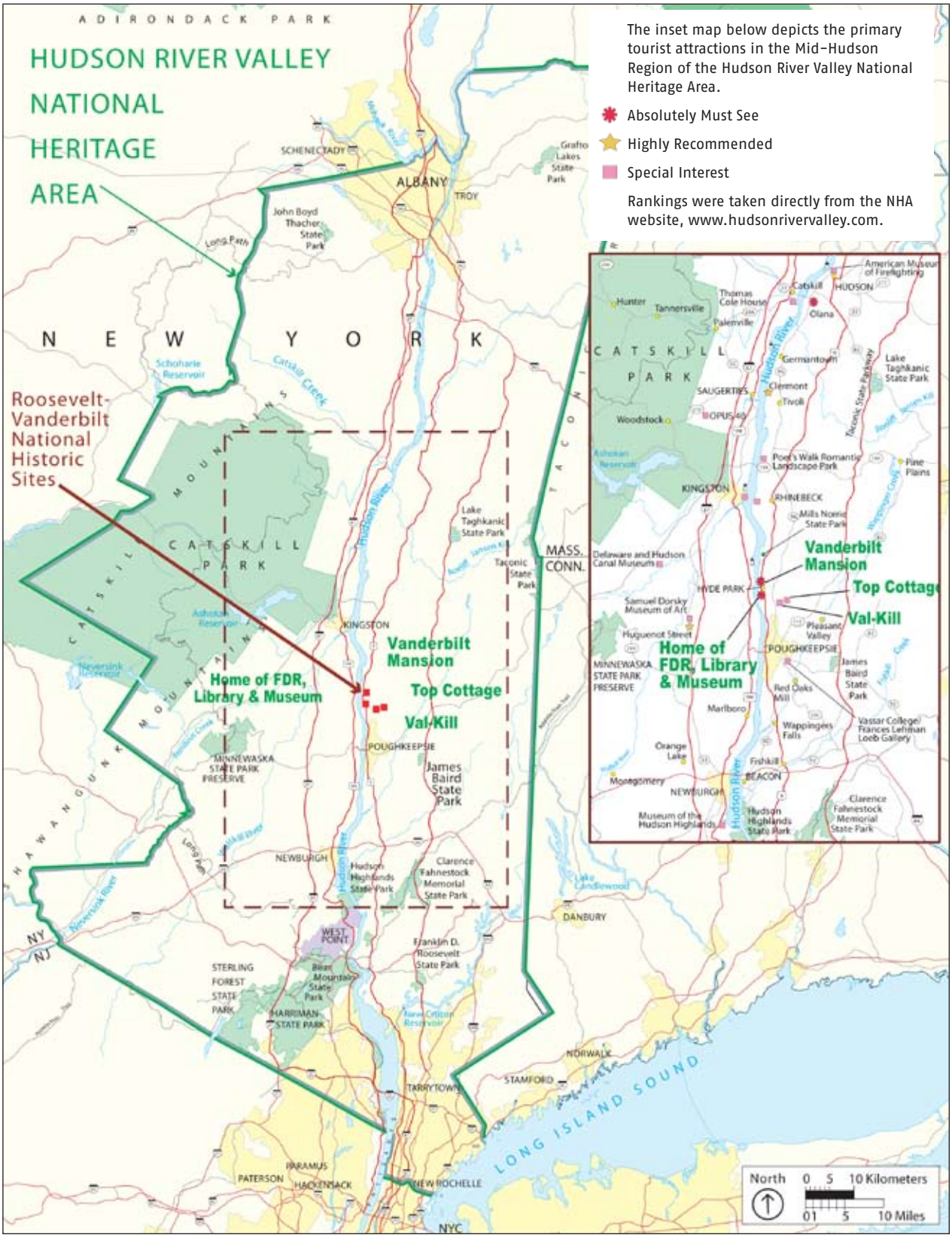
Hyde Park, New York, is home to three national historic sites that together attract more than half a million visitors every year: the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site; Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (also known as Val-Kill); and the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The sites are combined into a single administrative unit: Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, under one superintendent and operated by one staff, but each of the sites was established by separate legislation and has its own national significance. The properties compose three of the approximately 390 areas that make up the national park system. Although they are formally designated as national historic sites, these areas may be considered—and are frequently referred to in this document—as national parks. Together the parks include over 1,100 acres of federally owned land along the east bank of the Hudson River, along with two fully furnished mansions, 40 historic buildings, 14 miles of roads and trails, 35 acres of forest plantations set out by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, five historic gardens, nearly 100 acres of open fields, and over 25,000 objects and artifacts. The parks are supported by an annual budget of over $5 million and the work of hundreds of volunteers.

Roosevelt–Vanderbilt National Historic Sites attract more than 500,000 visitors per year

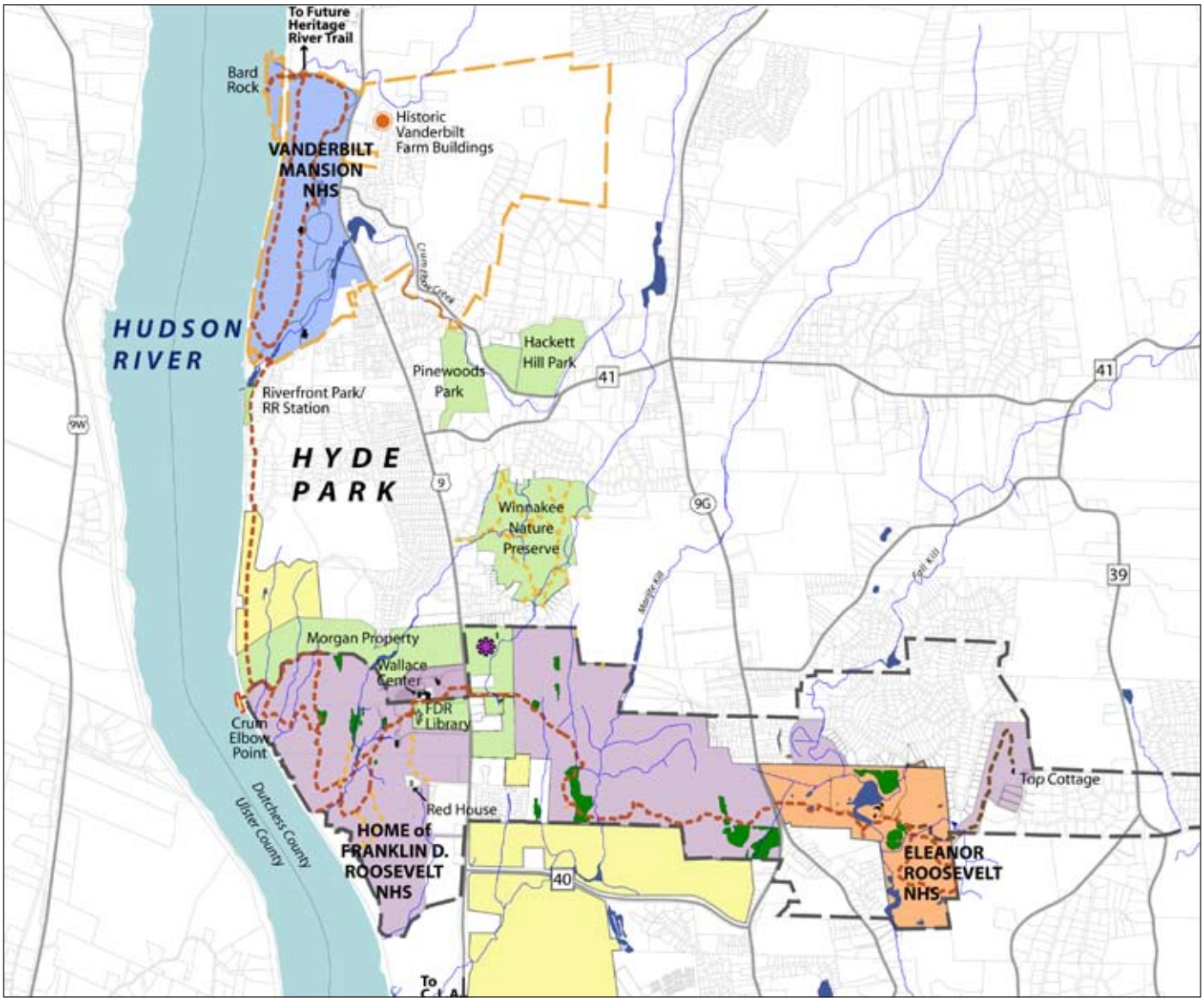
Hyde Park is located in the central Hudson River Valley, some 80 miles north of New York City, the largest metropolitan area in the United States. The two closest urban centers are the City of Poughkeepsie, which borders Hyde Park to the south, and the state capital, Albany, some 70 miles to the north.

Named by Native Americans *Muhheakantuck*, meaning "great waters in constant motion" or "river that flows two ways," the Hudson River stretches 315 miles, from its source in Lake Tear of the Clouds in the Adirondack Mountains to its mouth in Upper New York Bay. It is a tidal estuary for over 150 miles, which is why it appears to flow both ways from New York Harbor to the federal dam at Troy. With its verdant landscapes and scenic views of the Shawangunk and Catskill Mountains to the west and the Taconic range to the east, the Hudson River Valley has inspired artists and authors for generations. It has also been home to entrepreneurs, attracted by the proximity to New York City. In addition to the Roosevelts and Vanderbilts, the mid-Hudson region has been home to other prominent families, such as the Livingstons, the

Hyde Park, New York, is located in the central Hudson River Valley



Hudson River Valley Context



Hyde Park Context

- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
- Historic Roosevelt Family Estate (NPS authorized boundary)
- Historic Vanderbilt Estate
- Parks and Protected Land
- Proposed Future Development
- Historic Forest Plantation
- Water
- Hyde Park Trail
- Top Cottage Trail
- Other Trail
- Proposed Location for Hudson Valley Welcome Center

North 0 .25 0.5 Miles

Montgomerys, the Millses, and telegraph pioneer Samuel F.B. Morse, who also established "country places" along the east bank of the river in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Today, many of these estates are preserved and are open for public enjoyment, making this section of the Hudson Valley famous as the "Great Estates Region."

The region is also host to numerous colleges and universities. Notable nearby institutions include the Culinary Institute of America (2 miles to the south) and Marist, Bard, and Vassar Colleges.

Purpose of the General Management Plan

The main function of a general management plan, after providing a clear definition of a park's purpose and management direction, is to guide subsequent planning and management. The National Park Service (NPS) seeks to have all parks operate under approved general management plans. This ensures that park managers effectively and efficiently carry out the mission of the NPS:

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

A general management plan describes and explains a park's resource conditions and visitor experiences. It takes the long view, 20 years into the future, and is meant to be a policy-level guide to park managers.

The planning process follows National Park Service *Management Policies 2006* and Park Planning Program Standards. Law and policy require plans to address four key elements:

- the types of management actions required for the preservation of park resources;
- types and general intensities of development (including visitor circulation and transportation patterns, systems, and modes) associated with public enjoyment and use, including general locations, timing of implementation, and anticipated costs;
- visitor carrying capacities and implementation commitments for park areas; and
- potential modifications to the external boundaries of the park, if any, and the reasons for the proposed changes.

Overview of the National Historic Sites

National Park Service planning guidelines distinguish "Fundamental Resources and Values," or those that are critical to achieving the purpose of a park and maintaining its significance. The fundamental resources and values, as well as other important resources, are described below. For a summary of the historical context for the parks, please refer to Appendix C: Historical Overview.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

Congress accepted President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's pledge to donate a portion of his estate for a presidential library and a national historic site in 1939. The President made his donation for the historic site, consisting of his home and 33 adjacent acres, to the American people in 1943. Expanded through subsequent donations and acquisitions, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site (NHS) now comprises almost 719 acres of the former 1,522-acre historic Roosevelt Family Estate.[1]

FDR Home

Few figures in American public life have been so closely identified with a particular place as President Roosevelt with his Hyde Park home. FDR was born at his family's country place on the Hudson River in 1882 and remained closely connected to the house and surrounding lands until his death in 1945. The property was both home and political headquarters, a haven for spiritual renewal and, after he contracted polio, for physical rehabilitation. On this land he set out forest plantations, maintained family and tenant farms, built a hilltop retreat, and established the nation's first Presidential Library. Here he participated in community life, welcomed dignitaries, supporters, and the media, and conducted the work of the presidency.

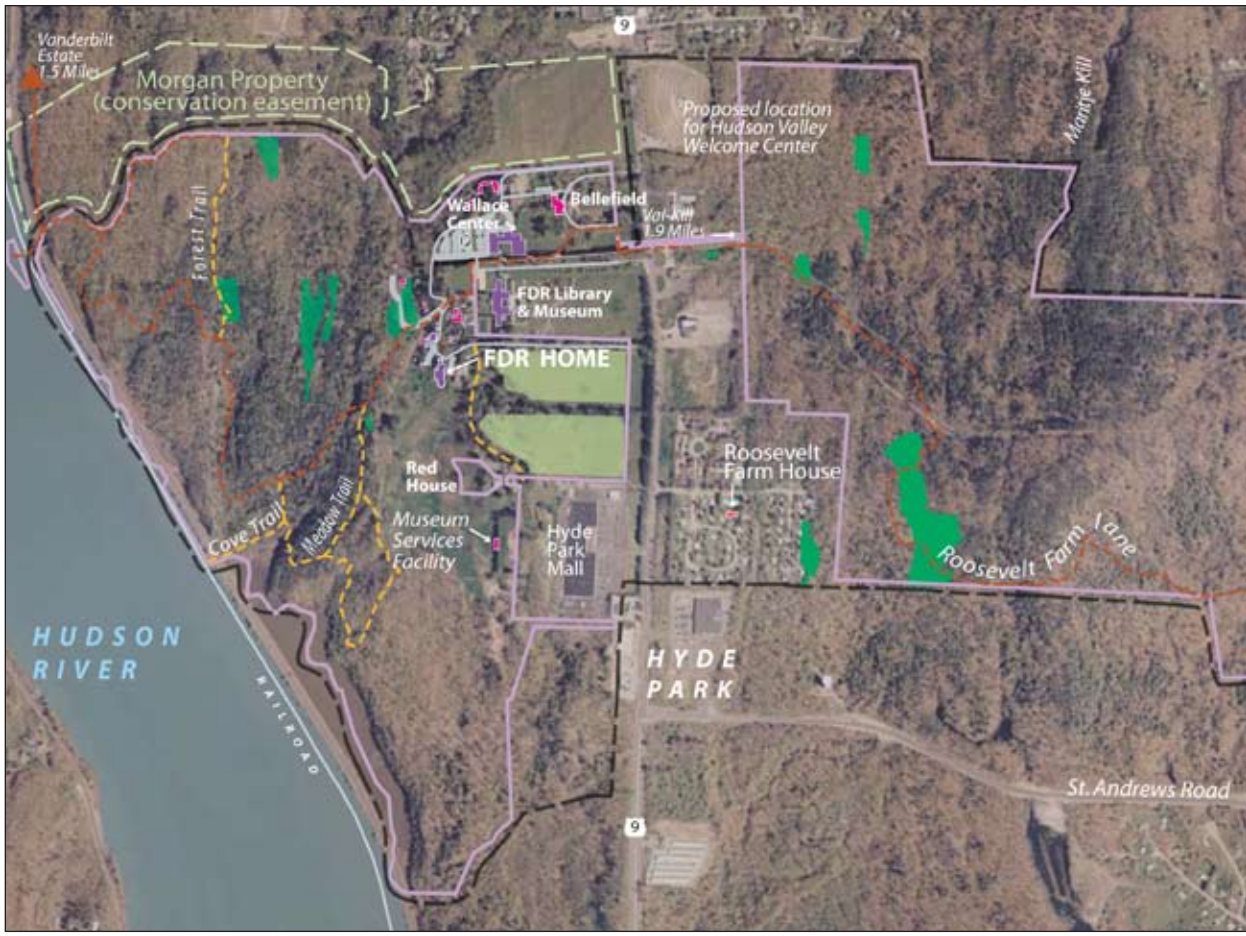
The FDR Home, or main house, is the centerpiece of the estate. After its renovation in 1915, the house figured prominently in his political career as a setting for meetings and accommodation for important guests. Other structures that were familiar features of FDR's life and essential to the functioning of the estate include the Stable, the Garage, two Ice Houses, and the Greenhouse. Top Cottage, at the easternmost reach of the Roosevelt Estate, was conceived and built by FDR as a personal retreat and reflects his architectural sensibilities, regional interests, and physical needs. The intimate cottage evokes the personality of one of the 20th Century's towering figures.

Top Cottage, conceived and built by FDR as a personal retreat

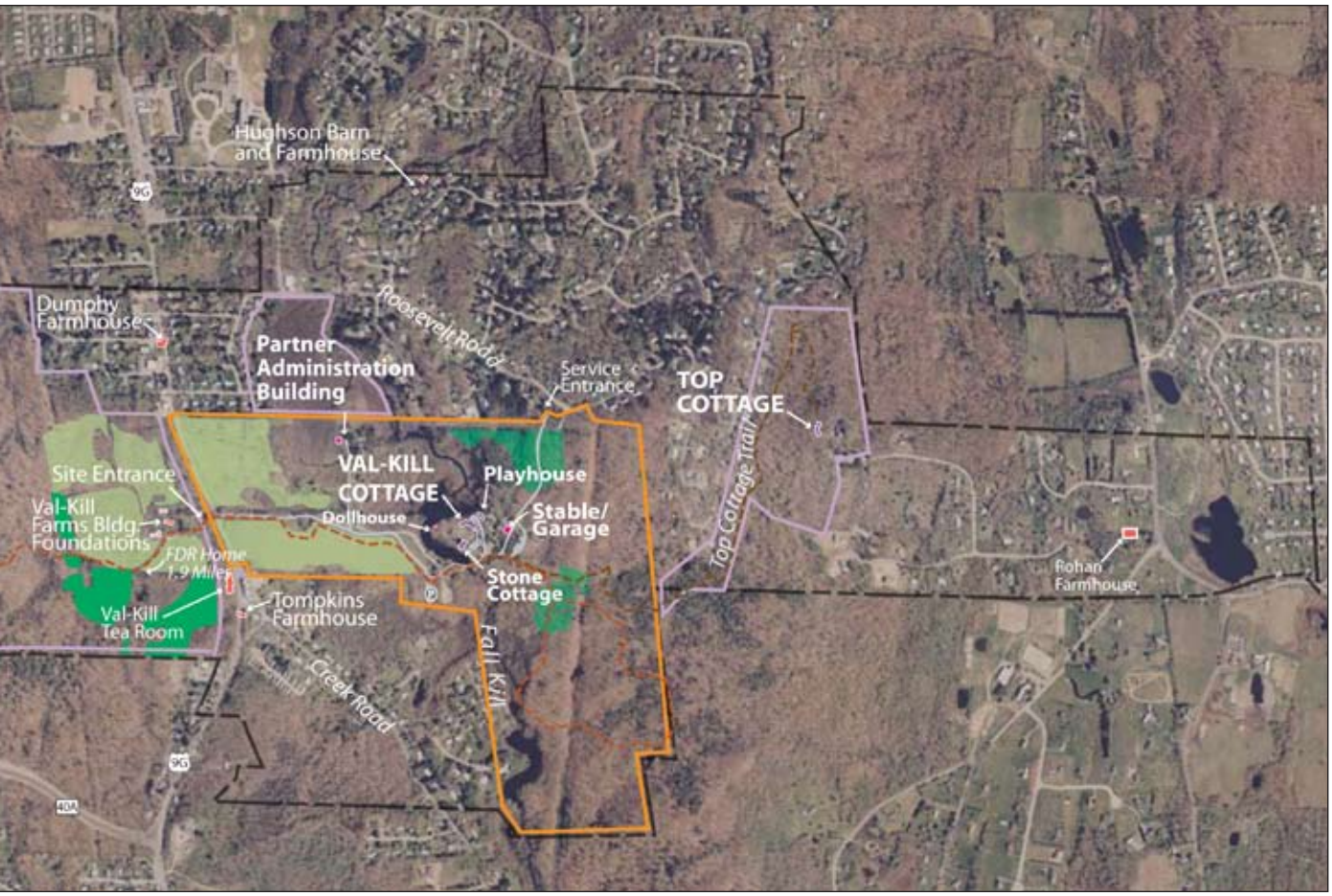
The site's collections contain furnishings and objects of great historical value. They include over 10,000 historic items, archeologically recovered objects (77,000), and associated field records. The significance of the collection is based on its close association with FDR and other members of the Roosevelt Family. The core of the collection consists of the furnishings of the FDR Home—FDR's bird collection, top hat, personally designed wheelchairs, and telephone that once connected directly to the White House, all of which convey the human details of an extraordinary life.

The NHS preserves lands of the historic Roosevelt Family Estate that stretch from the Hudson River east to Route 9G and include gardens and grounds, woodlands, and former agricultural lands. These fields and forests are where FDR spent much of his boyhood and where he explored and showcased ideas about land stewardship later in life. FDR's home included not just his house, but the entire estate, over half of which he personally acquired. Significant features include the native oak forest, numerous forest plantations, remnants of his first Christmas tree plantation set out in 1926, and experimental plantations established in cooperation with the New York State College of Forestry.

1. As of this writing, the transfer of 21 acres of former Roosevelt lands from Scenic Hudson to the NPS is in progress. When complete, this transfer will bring the total acreage of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS to 740 acres.



Historic Roosevelt Family Estate



Legend

- Historic Roosevelt Family Estate Boundary (NPS authorized boundary)
- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Main Bldgs (open to tours and/or public use)
- Park Operation Bldgs (maintenance, storage, residential, or administrative uses)
- Outlying Historic Bldgs
- Top Cottage Trail
- Hyde Park Trail
- Other Trail
- Visitor Parking
- Historic Forest Plantation
- Historic Farm Fields

Legend

- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Main Bldgs (open to tours and/or public use)
- Park Operation Bldgs (maintenance, storage, residential, or administrative uses)
- Hyde Park Trail
- Other Trail
- Visitor Parking
- Historic Forest Plantation
- Historic Farm Fields

FDR Home and Grounds

As the ultimate expression of his attachment to his Hyde Park home, FDR chose the family rose garden as his final resting place, where he and his wife Eleanor lie buried in a gravesite of his design.

The site's magnificent view overlooking the Hudson River to the mountains beyond inspired the President's deepest feelings.

In 2007, through the efforts of Scenic Hudson, Inc., the Town of Hyde Park, and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the NPS acquired an important tract of 334 acres between Route 9 and Route 9G, which restored much of the unity of the estate as it had existed during FDR's lifetime.

The Home of FDR National Historic Site also includes roughly one-half of the estate of FDR's half-brother, James Roosevelt Roosevelt ("Rosy"). Although not considered a fundamental resource, this property is important due to its association with FDR and as part of the historic setting for the FDR Home and grounds. This property historically was similar to the FDR property in layout, with a straight, tree-lined main entry drive and a stately home (the "Red House") at its terminus. The other half of the former J. R. Roosevelt property is outside NPS ownership and is now occupied by the Hyde Park Mall.

In 1974-75, the NPS added 24 acres of the adjacent Newbold-Morgan estate, known as Bellefield, for use as park headquarters. Although not considered a fundamental resource, this property is important as a park administration facility and as part of the historic setting for the FDR Home and grounds. The parks' main administrative building is the historic centerpiece of the Bellefield property, Bellefield Mansion, originally built circa 1795 and reconstructed in a neoclassical style by McKim, Mead, and White in 1909-11. Extending from the south side of the Mansion is the formal garden built circa 1912 to the design of Beatrix Farrand, widely considered one of the finest landscape architects of the early 20th Century.

The gravesite of FDR and ER in the family rose garden

The Bellefield Mansion, the parks' main administrative building, with the Farrand Garden in the foreground

The Presidential Library and Museum

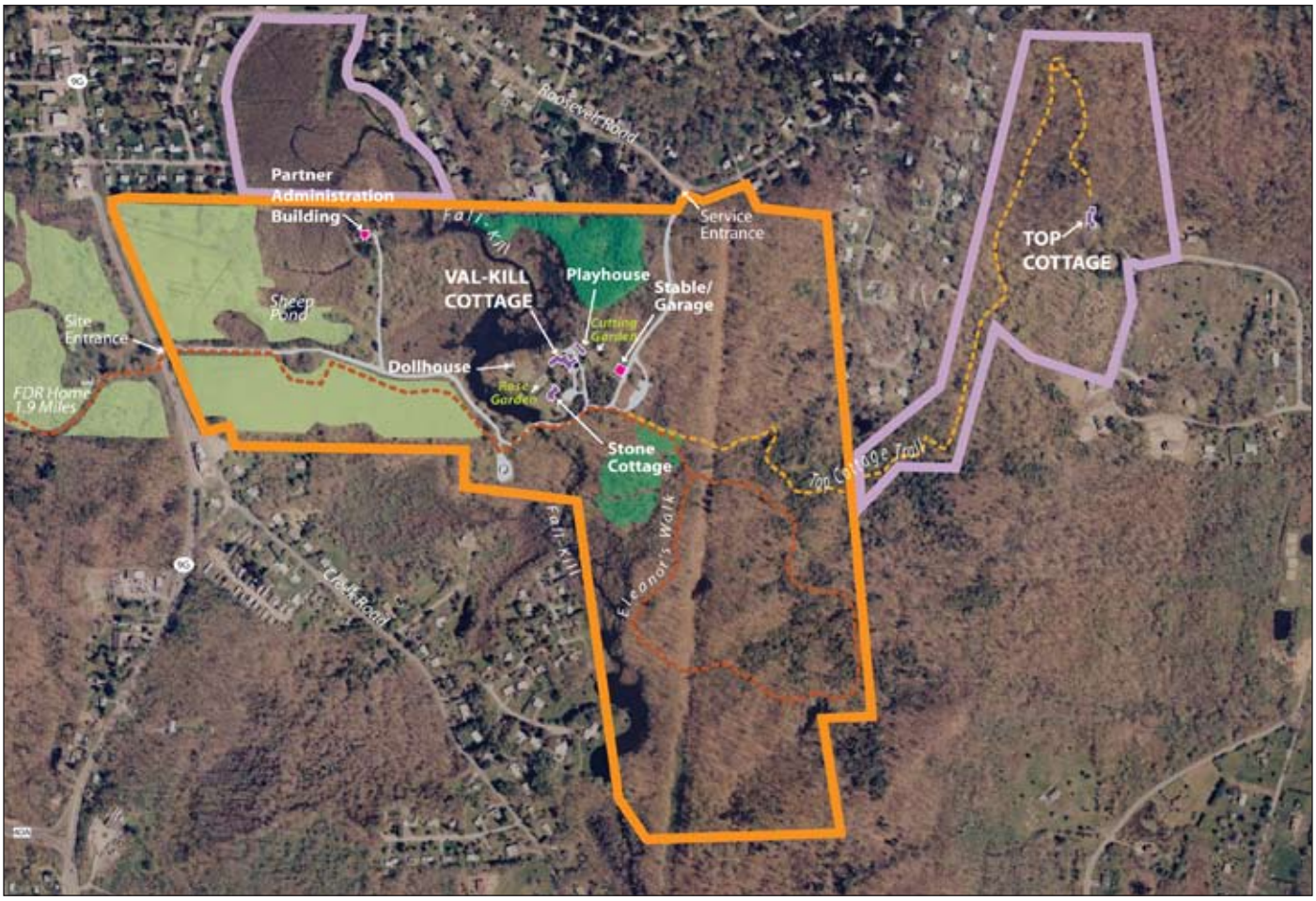
Stone Cottage, the first building constructed at Val-Kill

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum forms a vital part of the Roosevelt "campus." It is managed by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Library property comprises nearly 20 acres. The visitor center for the parks and the FDR Presidential Library is the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, located to the west of the Bellefield Mansion, on property transferred from the NPS to NARA for this purpose. The managers of the two sites work together closely, sharing the visitor center and presenting a comprehensive depiction of the Roosevelts.

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site was established by Congress in 1977 to preserve Mrs. Roosevelt's cherished home at Val-Kill on a portion of the Roosevelt Family Estate. Here she founded Val-Kill Industries to provide new skills and employment opportunities for unemployed local farm workers. At her Val-Kill home, she wrote books and newspaper columns, served as the first U.S. delegate to the United Nations, chaired the committee that drafted the



Val-Kill and Top Cottage

North 0 125 250 Ft

Legend

- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Main Bldgs (open to tours and/or public use)
- Park Operation Bldgs (maintenance, storage, residential, or administrative uses)
- Top Cottage Trail
- Hyde Park Trail
- Visitor Parking
- Historic Forest Plantation
- Historic Farm Fields

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and came into her own as one of the most influential figures of her time.

Originally purchased by FDR in 1911, Val-Kill soon became a favorite family picnic site. In 1924, FDR urged Eleanor and her friends Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman to build a cottage so they could enjoy the peace and solitude year-round. Construction of Stone Cottage was started in 1925 and completed the following year. Val-Kill Cottage was built in 1926 as a furniture factory for Val-Kill Industries, run by the three women. Eleanor Roosevelt converted it to her residence in 1936-37, and it became her year-round home after FDR's death in 1945. At Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt surrounded herself with family and friends and hosted a range of people, from national and world leaders to local youth and students, who reflected her diverse interests.

Val-Kill Cottage, originally built as a furniture factory for Val-Kill Industries and later converted into ER's residence

Other important structures at Val-Kill are the Stable-Garage, the Doll House, the Playhouse, and the swimming pool. The Doll House is a small wooden structure, originally located near the FDR Home and moved to Val-Kill by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1945 for the use of her grandchildren. The Playhouse, a one-story frame building, was built in several phases beginning in 1928 and was adapted for various uses, including a forge and metal-working shop for Val-Kill Industries.

Eleanor Roosevelt loved the beauty and tranquility of the Val-Kill landscape, characteristics that endure today. Val-Kill Pond, a dammed section of the Fall Kill, is a central feature around which the main buildings, Stone Cottage and Val-Kill Cottage, are arranged. Lawns, gardens, woodlands, and forest plantations set out by FDR surround the structures. The site includes a large white pine plantation set out by FDR in 1914. The plantation, known as the "Secret Woods," is said to be where Eleanor Roosevelt read stories to her grandchildren. In addition to the Secret Woods, the remains of several plantations survive, including white cedar, tulip tree, and Scotch pine plantations set out as experimental plots by the New York State College of Forestry. The agricultural context of Val-Kill remained important throughout Eleanor Roosevelt's life, and she actively sought to continue it after FDR's death, when she and her son Elliott launched Val-Kill Farms.

Val-Kill Pond was created by damming a section of the Fall Kill

Although most of the furnishings and personal possessions were dispersed following Eleanor Roosevelt's death, the park has since been able to acquire historic furnishings and other collections associated with the site. The collection includes primarily historical material (4,000 items). Objects such as handcrafted Val-Kill Industries furniture, family photographs, and personal memorabilia reflect the human dimension of life at Val-Kill. In addition to the objects, the park's collections include approximately 15 linear feet of documents, photographs, and movie film.

In the enabling legislation, Congress authorized the NPS to enter into cooperative agreements with qualified public or private entities to carry on Eleanor Roosevelt's legacy. The NPS has a cooperative agreement with The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill (ERVK) to carry out this mission. The park's legislation also specified that a memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt be established at Val-Kill.

Legend

- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
- Main Bldgs (open to tours and/or public use)
- Park Operation Bldgs (maintenance, storage, residential, or administrative uses)
- Hyde Park Trail
- Visitor Parking

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

North 0 250 500 Feet

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

Located about three miles north of Franklin D. Roosevelt's home is the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. President Roosevelt directed the designation of this property as a national historic site in 1940. The NPS administers 212 acres, or the "pleasure grounds" portion of the former 684-acre country place.

Frederick W. Vanderbilt, a grandson of the shipping and railroad magnate "Commodore" Cornelius Vanderbilt, saw himself as part of his family's illustrious tradition of arts patronage. In 1895, he purchased an existing estate and employed the nation's most prestigious architects, landscape architects, artisans, and craftsmen to improve and furnish it. The centerpiece of the estate is the Mansion created for Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt by McKim, Mead, and White, a preeminent architectural firm at the turn of the 20th Century. The fully furnished 50-room house rivals the most stately North American homes of the period in the quality of its design, interiors, and decoration. It also incorporates advanced building features, such as steel and concrete construction and a centralized heating system.

To the north of the Mansion is the Pavilion, a neoclassical-style guest house, also designed by McKim, Mead, and White. The Coach House was built in 1897 to the design of architect Robert H. Robertson. It is a brick structure in Queen Anne style that the architect adapted as a garage for automobiles in 1910. The Tool House and Gardener's Cottage are matching buildings and the only ones that pre-date Vanderbilt occupancy. The Main Gate House and Lower Gate House, which echo the Beaux-Arts style of the Mansion, were built to McKim, Mead, and White designs in 1898. The Mansion had electric power and running water supplied by its own hydroelectric plant. Located on the south side of Crum Elbow Creek, the Power House is a one-story cobblestone building built in 1897 that provides a prime illustration of the self-sufficiency of the large estates of the era. It produced electricity by water power until 1938 and pumped water to the farm portion of the estate until 1941.

The site is one of the most intact remaining Hudson River picturesque landscapes and depicts the evolution of landscape design in America over some 200 years. The Vanderbilts retained much of the landscape as it was planned after 1828 by the Belgian landscape designer Andre Parmentier, who laid out carriageways and pathways to reveal an unfolding series of dramatic views framed by precisely arranged trees. They modified the formal Italian garden and added a rose garden and classically inspired support structures. Below the formal gardens is the Crum Elbow Creek valley, a naturalistic landscape that forms the southern end of the park. Paralleling the creek with its ponds and waterfalls is a gently winding drive lined by specimen trees and grass shoulders. Numerous structures were erected to support and enhance the estate's vast gardening operation and embellish the designed landscape, among them the Pool House (1903), the Loggia (Garden House, 1910), Pergola (1903), and White Bridge (1897). The White Bridge is significant as one of the early surviving Mellan arch bridges in the U.S.

An overlook from the Mansion provides a dramatic vista up the Hudson Valley, with the Catskill Mountains in the distance, a view that has become

The Vanderbilt Mansion

The Vanderbilt Coach House

The Vanderbilt formal gardens

View from the overlook at Vanderbilt

One of a pair of grand orreries purchased by Stanford White for the Vanderbilts in 1897

emblematic of the great Hudson Valley estates. The site includes Bard Rock, one of the few arms of land in the area that extends beyond the railroad track and offers direct access to the Hudson River.

More than 7,000 historic objects, featuring European fine art, American and European decorative arts and furnishings, and carriages and automobiles, are vital in portraying the lifestyle of the Vanderbilts. This collection has outstanding integrity for its association with the family, the distinction of the designers, and the intrinsic and artistic value of individual objects. Approximately 90% of the original furnishings for the Mansion survive in the collection, including many important examples of European fine art and American and European decorative arts and furnishings from the 16th to the early 20th Centuries. In addition to the objects displayed in the main public rooms on the first and second floors of the Mansion, the collection retains most of the domestic equipment and furnishings associated with the kitchens, laundry, and other basement work areas.

Natural Resources

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites include natural resources that, while not fundamental to the legislated purposes of the parks, are important and are protected by federal laws, executive orders, and policy. These include wetlands and other aquatic resources, several natural communities considered rare and/or significant within New York State, and prime agricultural lands.

Freshwater tidal marsh at Roosevelt Cove

The parks' aquatic resources include a wide variety of palustrine (marshy) and tidal river systems. Within the parks are approximately 4 miles of streams, 20 acres of ponds, and 46 acres of known freshwater wetlands. There are also numerous clusters of vernal pools, seeps, and intermittent streams, many of which have not been inventoried or mapped.

At the Home of FDR NHS, a 25-acre freshwater tidal marsh provides nesting and migratory stopover habitat for waterfowl and wading birds. (The waterway is owned by New York State.) This feature was created by the railroad embankment in the 19th Century. It is largely dependent upon the flushing action of the tidal flows through culverts under the embankment, which have diminished over the years.

There are several good, mid-size examples of red cedar rocky summit forest type located to the west of the FDR Home. This community type is characterized by dry upland ridges with low areas, shallow soils, and prickly-pear cactus, and it is dependent upon periodic fires. This type of community is limited in distribution, restricted essentially to the mid-Hudson Valley and Lake George regions, with about 20 documented in New York State.

A hemlock-northern hardwood forest is located on the lands between Route 9 and Route 9G. It is the most intact of the forests within the parks, with very few exotic species. This forest extends into the undeveloped lands to the north and south of the park. The property between Route 9 and Route 9G also contains rich beech-maple mesic areas with basswood and white ash trees and ephemeral spring flowers, along with well-buffered red maple-black gum swamps.

At Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, there is an impressive example of a mature oak-tulip tree forest community over 60 acres in size, with a 40-acre core of

very mature trees. A portion of this community is considered "old growth." This community is defined by large oaks, beeches, and tulip trees, with at least 24 oaks averaging 1 meter DBH (diameter at breast height). Embedded within this community is a Norway spruce plantation.

The parks contain some prime agricultural lands—those lands best suited to producing food, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. Within the parks there are two categories of prime agricultural lands: 3 acres of prime farmland soil and 15 acres of soils of statewide significance.

The parks contain a diverse array of animal species, in part due to the perpetuation of large areas of wetland and forest since the 17th Century. The parks are within the summer range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), which is on the federal list of endangered species, but the presence of this species has not been verified. Val-Kill has been home to the Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), which is on the New York State list of threatened species and was last seen in the park in 2003. Several other turtle species (spotted, wood, and box) and salamander species (Jefferson's, blue-spotted, and marbled), which have been identified as species of special concern in New York State, are known to occur in the parks. The presence of several birds on Federal or State lists of species of concern (including the bald eagle and red-shouldered hawk) has been documented, but there are few reliable long-term data.

Old growth trees at Vanderbilt

Primary Partners

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS collaborates with several partner organizations to further its mission. Collaborative activities include managing related resources, providing advocacy and volunteers, and raising funds. The following are organizations with which the park has formal agreements.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is operated by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), which also administers the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, operated in partnership with the NPS.

The NPS shares in the operation of the Wallace Center

The Roosevelt Institute is a private nonprofit organization that promotes the study of the Roosevelt era and is the primary support organization for the FDR Presidential Library. Formerly known as the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the organization funded the restoration of Top Cottage and has preserved the former James Roosevelt House, the "Red House," as a residence for its executive.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, Incorporated (ERVK) is a private nonprofit organization established in accordance with the Eleanor Roosevelt NHS authorizing legislation to conduct programs that perpetuate Eleanor Roosevelt's interests and concerns. The organization is headquartered and operates programs at Val-Kill.

An ERVK Girls' Leadership Workshop at Val-Kill

Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt: A Project to Preserve Her Val-Kill Home is an official project of Save America's Treasures, a public-private partnership between the NPS and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It was established in 1999 to raise

Volunteers in the Farrand Garden

funds for preservation, education, and interpretation. The organization is based in New York City and Boston.

The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association (RVHA) is a nonprofit cooperating association based in Hyde Park established to support the historic sites through sales of interpretive materials. RVHA operates stores at Vanderbilt and Val-Kill.

The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association is a regional organization of volunteers formed in 1994 to re-establish and maintain the gardens at Bellefield. Beatrix Farrand, one of the nation's foremost landscape architects, designed the gardens in 1912.

The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association, Incorporated is a local nonprofit organization of volunteers founded in 1984 to re-establish and maintain the formal gardens at the Vanderbilt Mansion NHS.

Lands and Boundaries

Roosevelt Estate Lands and Boundary

Volunteers in the Vanderbilt Garden

Beginning in 1867, Franklin D. Roosevelt's father James assembled an estate of more than 600 acres on both sides of the Albany Post Road (present Route 9) in Hyde Park. On his death in 1900, James left the "Red House" and surrounding land to his son James "Rosy" Roosevelt and the balance to Franklin, subject to a life estate for FDR's mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt. From 1911 to 1938, Franklin gradually expanded his landholdings by acquiring neighboring farms to the east. At its height in 1938, the Roosevelt Family Estate consisted of 1522 acres. FDR owned 1,424 acres and 98 acres remained in "Rosy's" family.

Franklin Roosevelt began to provide for his legacy in 1939 by offering to donate 16 acres of the estate to the U.S. Government for his Presidential Library. This donation was accepted by act of Congress July 18, 1939 (53 Stat. 1062-65), and the library was dedicated June 30, 1941. The 1939 act also allowed the federal government to accept title to "part or parts" of the Roosevelt property for a national historic site, subject to a life estate for Franklin and his family. This law did not specify particular parcels or amounts of land to be donated. (For legislation cited in this section, see Appendix B.)

Dedication, Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, April 12, 1946

By deed of December 29, 1943 Franklin Roosevelt transferred 33 acres, including the home and surrounding grounds, to the federal government, subject to the life estates. The indenture also included a covenant that the property "shall be maintained as a national historic site and in a condition as nearly as possible approximating the condition of the residence and grounds prevailing at the expiration of the life estate of Franklin D. Roosevelt." Another stipulation granted the right to enter upon three adjoining parcels of the Roosevelt Estate to "cut down and remove . . . all trees and timber of any and all kinds that may be necessary to secure and preserve . . . the river and mountain views as they now exist."

The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site was designated by executive order January 27, 1944. President Roosevelt died in April 1945 and, after his family members waived their rights of life estate, the

transfer of the 33 acres to federal administration was finalized November 21, 1945. The trustees of FDR's estate sold off the remainder of the estate over the next two decades. A parcel sold in 1948, 259 acres along the east side of Route 9, contained restrictions prohibiting certain industrial uses and the erection of any buildings or signs within 100 feet of Route 9. This provision is binding on successors.

Beginning in 1952, the NPS began to expand the original 33-acre national historic site by acquiring property within the former Roosevelt Estate and the adjoining estate, Bellefield. An amendment to the 1939 act, approved April 30, 1975, (89 Stat. 81; Public Law 94-19) allowed the U.S. to accept title to contiguous property in Hyde Park. This was necessary to allow the NPS to accept the donation of the Bellefield property, which had not been part of the historic Roosevelt Family Estate. Public Law 105-364, approved November 10, 1998, authorized the Secretary of the Interior (the department to which the NPS belongs) to acquire "lands and interests in lands located in Hyde Park, New York, that were owned by Franklin D. Roosevelt or his family at the time of his death." This created an *authorization boundary* for the park, while the *park boundary* embraces the lands currently owned by the NPS.

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, also known as Val-Kill, was created by legislation effective May 26, 1977 (91 Stat. 171; Public Law 95-32). This act did not describe the boundary or total acreage but referenced an accompanying map. As implemented, the historic site contains 181 acres of the former Roosevelt Estate, most of which was owned by the Roosevelt family at the time of Mrs. Roosevelt's death in 1962. The 1977 act contains a special provision that "the Secretary shall erect or cause to be erected and maintained an appropriate monument or memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt within the boundaries of the site."

The 1998 legislation states that lands acquired by the NPS can be added to either the Home of FDR or the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites. Subsequent accessions have all been added to the Home of FDR NHS, bringing its total area to 719 acres. Combined with the 181 acres comprising Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, the NPS owns 900 acres, all but 24 of which were part of the former Roosevelt Estate.[2]

ER and Fala at Val-Kill, 1947

The historic Vanderbilt Estate was 684 acres

Vanderbilt Estate Lands and Boundary

The estate assembled by Frederick W. Vanderbilt covered 684 acres on both sides of present Route 9. Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, established by executive order December 18, 1940 (5 F.R. 5282), occupies 212 acres, lying entirely on the west side of the highway. This boundary has remained unchanged since the park was established.

Associated Resources Outside of Park Ownership

A number of sites associated with the Roosevelts and the Vanderbilts are outside NPS ownership. The following section highlights some of these important places, both in Hyde Park and farther afield.

2. The transfer of 21 acres will bring the total area of the Home of FDR NHS to 740 acres. Combined with the Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, the NPS will own 921 acres of the Historic Roosevelt Family Estate.

Roosevelt-related Resources

RESOURCES WITHIN THE HISTORIC ROOSEVELT ESTATE

The following resources are located within the historic Roosevelt Family Estate. All but the FDR Presidential Library and Museum are within the area of NPS acquisition authority for the Home of FDR National Historic Site.

FDR Presidential Library and Museum

A primary Roosevelt-related resource outside of the park boundaries but forming part of a common "campus" is the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, which consists of nearly 20 acres of property between Bellefield and the FDR Home.

The Red House

The Red House

The Federal-style James "Rosy" Roosevelt House, also known as the Red House, is located to the south of the FDR Home, on the James "Rosy" Roosevelt portion of the Roosevelt Family Estate. As mentioned earlier, Rosy was FDR's half-brother.

The Val-Kill Tea Room, 1945

The Val-Kill Tea Room

A small building referred to as the Weaving Cottage, or Val-Kill Tea Room, remains just north of the traffic island formed by the intersection of Route 9G and Creek Road. The structure was built in 1933 for Eleanor Roosevelt as a tea house and has long functioned as a restaurant.

Remaining Undeveloped Roosevelt Lands

Several parcels of largely undeveloped land remain along the eastern side of Route 9, including: a 29-acre parcel across from the Home of FDR main entrance; a 1-acre and a 4-acre parcel south of the 29-acre parcel; a 16-acre parcel south of the Roosevelt Cinema; and a 14-acre parcel east of the Stoneledge senior housing development.[3]

Former Farm Structures

The Roosevelt farmhouse, located in the present Springwood Village development, remains but in altered condition. All but one of the farmhouses associated with the upland farms that FDR acquired also remain in altered condition.

LOCAL RESOURCES OUTSIDE OF THE HISTORIC ROOSEVELT ESTATE

The following resources are located outside the historic Roosevelt Family Estate and therefore outside the area of NPS acquisition authority for the national historic sites.

St. James Episcopal Church

Across from the Vanderbilt Mansion is St. James Episcopal Church, where Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt worshipped and where FDR's parents are buried.

Rosedale

In the southern part of Hyde Park are the remaining structures associated with "Rosedale," the estate of Isaac Roosevelt and later John A. Roosevelt, FDR's uncle: the main house, the Roosevelt Point Boathouse, and the Cottage. Now a private residence, the main house (1832) sits on the crest of a hill with a view

3. The transfer of the 1-acre, 4-acre, and 16-acre parcels from Scenic Hudson to the NPS is underway.

of the Hudson River. The boathouse and cottage remain at the river's edge. The boathouse was built to store John Roosevelt's 68-foot ice yacht, the "Icicle." The entire Roosevelt family shared use of the boathouse, and FDR frequented Rosedale during his childhood.

Oak Terrace

Near Hyde Park in Tivoli, New York, is Eleanor Roosevelt's Grandmother Hall's country home, Oak Terrace, where Eleanor lived as a child after her mother died.

Public Buildings

Beyond the bounds of his estate, FDR's passionate interest in architecture rooted in local heritage influenced the design of many public buildings, among them libraries, schools, post offices, and municipal buildings.

RESOURCES BEYOND THE HUDSON VALLEY

New York City

Several important sites associated with the Roosevelts are located in New York City. Most notable is the United Nations, in addition to various apartment buildings where the Roosevelts lived. Plans are also underway to build the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park on the southern tip of Roosevelt Island.

Warm Springs, Georgia

Farther afield is the Little White House in Warm Springs, Georgia, where FDR sought rehabilitation after contracting polio, and where he died on April 12, 1945. The site is now part of the Georgia state park system.

Arthurdale

Eleanor Roosevelt's dedication to social improvement was showcased at Arthurdale, a community in Appalachian West Virginia.

Washington D.C.

In Washington D.C., in addition to the White House, the Roosevelts' official residence from 1933 to 1945, is the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, a national park site near the National Mall.

Campobello Island

On Campobello Island in New Brunswick, Canada, is Roosevelt-Campobello International Park, the Roosevelt summer home.

Vanderbilt-related Resources

RESOURCES WITHIN THE HISTORIC VANDERBILT ESTATE

The following resources are located within the historic Vanderbilt Estate, but outside the authorized boundary for the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site.

Vanderbilt Farm

The boundaries of the Vanderbilt Mansion NHS embrace the "pleasure ground" portion of what once was a nearly 700-acre estate. Vestiges of the Vanderbilt

A former Vanderbilt farm building

farmlands remain across Route 9, including farm buildings clustered along a narrow, stone-wall-lined lane that aligns with the park's north gate.

Wales House

Just outside the park boundary on its southeastern corner is the Wales House (1896), built for a classmate of Frederick Vanderbilt. Originally part of the Vanderbilt Estate, it was designed by McKim, Mead, and White and is now a private residence.

Howard House

Other related structures include the Howard House (1896), designed by McKim, Mead, and White and built for a niece of Louise Vanderbilt, and the associated Carriage House located east of Route 9. The Howard House is a private residence.

RESOURCES BEYOND THE HUDSON VALLEY

Other Frederick Vanderbilt Estates

In addition to Hyde Park, Frederick Vanderbilt maintained residences in New York City, Bar Harbor, Upper St. Regis Lake in the Adirondacks, and at "Rough Point" in Newport, Rhode Island.

Other Vanderbilt Family Estates

Other Vanderbilt family estates in the United States are preserved and opened to the public. Among the most noted are Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina, and The Breakers in Newport, Rhode Island.

Related Programs, Plans, and Initiatives

Many institutions, organizations, and governmental agencies play an important role in providing the public with resources and information about the Hudson River Valley and the Hyde Park area. Given the number and breadth of organizations and agencies working in the region, the list below is not comprehensive but is intended to highlight key programs in the region.

Regional Efforts

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area was established as a Federal program in 1996 to recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally significant history and resources of the valley for the benefit of the nation. This four-million-acre heritage area between Waterford and the northern border of New York City is a partnership of local, state, and federal sites, with the Hudson River Valley Greenway serving as its manager. The NPS provides technical and financial support through the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt parks.

New York State's Hudson River Valley Greenway, the manager of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area program, is an agency created to facilitate the development of a voluntary regional strategy for preserving scenic, natural, historic, cultural, and recreational resources of the Hudson Valley, while encouraging compatible economic development and maintaining the tradition of home rule for land use decision-making.

One important program of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area is **"Teaching the Hudson Valley,"** which aims to help teachers share with students and other educators an understanding of and love for the culture, ecology, and history of the Valley and the tools needed to preserve it. "Teaching the Hudson Valley" is administered by the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites in partnership with the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program**, and the **Hudson River Valley Institute** at Marist College.

One regional effort underway is the **Hudson Valley Welcome Center Project**, a partnership among the NPS, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Scenic Hudson, and the Town of Hyde Park. The project started in 2000 to preserve and utilize undeveloped lands adjacent to the Home of FDR. Community leaders and local residents helped develop the "Hyde Park Planning Concept" through a series of facilitated discussions initiated when the Scenic Hudson Land Trust purchased land to protect it from incompatible development. The project involves several undeveloped parcels of land purchased by Scenic Hudson east of Route 9. (The largest of the parcels, 334 acres, has been acquired by the NPS and is now part of the Home of FDR NHS).[4]

This vision involves the following overarching goals:

- To create a hub for tourist services in the Hudson Valley and promote economic development opportunities for complementary cultural and recreational amenities.
- To provide a sustainable transportation system for tourists visiting Hyde Park and establish links with other regional visitor destinations.
- To rehabilitate an historic route, "Roosevelt Farm Lane," and other landscape features of the historic Roosevelt Estate. (Roosevelt Farm Lane was completed in November 2008).

The partners envision the hub, the "Hudson Valley Welcome Center" (proposed to be located across from the Home of FDR) to serve as a focal point in the Hudson Valley where tourists, visitors, and residents can get comprehensive information on the rich variety of entertainment, cultural, and hospitality options available throughout the region. The partners also envision co-locating thematically related complementary development on the Welcome Center site, such as a wine and culinary center or native plant nursery, to enhance visitation to the Center and provide additional amenities.

In 1998 the Hudson River became an **American Heritage River**, one of only 14 nationwide. The Hudson's unique place in American history and culture, its role in the birth of the modern environmental movement, and the marked improvements in its ecological health over recent decades all contributed to this designation.

The **Hudson River Estuary Program** is a partner-based effort among federal, state, and local programs administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Its mission is to conserve and restore the Hudson River's extraordinary natural heritage and scenery.

4. As part of this project, the transfer of an additional 21 acres from Scenic Hudson to the NPS is underway.

The **Hudson River Watertrail Association**, a nonprofit volunteer coalition of non-motorized boating enthusiasts, was formed in 1992 to improve river access by car-top boaters.

The **Northern Dutchess Alliance** aims to create a broad-based and inclusive institutional structure for regional cooperation and economic development throughout Northern Dutchess County.

Regional and national land trusts, including Scenic Hudson, the Open Space Institute, and the Trust for Public Land are working in collaboration to protect lands within the Hudson Valley from development and preserve the scenic quality of the region.

Walkway Over the Hudson is a nonprofit organization founded in 1992. Its mission is to inspire people to connect to the beauty of the Hudson Valley through long-term stewardship of the **Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park** and support of the regional trail system.

Local Efforts

The **Town of Hyde Park Comprehensive Plan**, developed over a decade with extensive public input, expresses the vision for the future of Hyde Park and identifies challenges facing the Town. It suggests strategies to guide development and enhance the Town's sense of place, encourage civic identity, expand economic vitality, and capitalize on the Town's wealth of historic, scenic, and natural resources.

Completed in 2002, the **Albany Post Road Corridor Study** (Route 9) identifies land uses and traffic conditions along the corridor. Recommendations focus on consolidating vehicular entries, improving pedestrian networks, providing more street trees and landscaping, and extending the area covered by the 30-mph speed limit. A local Route 9G Corridor Committee works to enhance the setting of the Route 9G corridor.

Developing the Plan

The NPS takes an interdisciplinary approach to planning. The team for this management plan was composed of individuals skilled in the areas of cultural resource management, history, interpretation, collection management, landscape architecture, park operations, and natural resource management. The planning team also consulted with technical staff within the NPS and from other agencies.

In preparation for considering Roosevelt-Vanderbilt's future, a series of interpretive workshops was held over the course of 2002-2003 as part of a long-range interpretive planning process. At these sessions, park staff, scholars, and park partners discussed issues associated with visitor services and the parks' mission and goals. The results of these sessions informed the general management plan and were instrumental in defining the statements of purpose, significance, and themes.

Also leading into the planning process, were several research projects and workshops undertaken to provide information that could be incorporated into planning. Subject matter experts conducted research on such topics as

structural loading on the historic homes, visitor use, vegetation, and wildlife. Sessions were held to review natural resource values and issues related to forest plantations.

Over the summers of 2005 and 2006, sub-committees of the planning team visited a number of sites with similar themes or characteristics. During these visits, the planning team observed the practical application of ideas being explored at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt, including: better integration of the cultural landscape into the visitor experience; greater support for educational programming; and creative ways of generating revenue.

Consultation with the New York State Historic Preservation Office was initiated in December 2005 and consultation with the Native American tribes historically associated with this area of the Hudson Valley was initiated in January 2006. The consultation continued throughout the planning process.

Although informal consultation took place with natural resource specialists over the course of the planning effort, formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was initiated in December 2008 with regard to the status of threatened and endangered species in the area. The NPS will continue consultation with USFWS and NYS DEC as site-specific plans are advanced to implement the general management plan.

Building on the information gleaned from the various working sessions and from reviews of enabling legislation and legislative histories, the team developed draft foundation materials. These include statements of park purpose (why the park was established), significance (why the resources are important enough to warrant national park designation), and themes (the most important stories to be told at the parks), as well as an analysis of fundamental resources and values (those that directly support the purpose and significance of a park).

In November 2005, the team distributed postcard announcements to a mailing list of over 11,000 to publicize the plan and to invite input on the issues it should address. The planning team established a project website and held a public scoping session in December 2005 at the Wallace Center.

As part of the public scoping process, the planning team also met with each of the parks' primary partners to solicit their views about the future of the parks.

Scoping continued with the publication of the first newsletter in October 2006. Mailed to approximately 6,000 addresses and posted on the Internet, it reviewed the planning process and invited comment on the planning issues and foundation materials.

The planning team then developed goal statements for the national historic sites. The goals are broad ideal conditions that park managers will strive to attain in perpetuity.

After examining the public input and the analysis of the parks' legislation, and building on the foundation materials and the goals, the team defined and applied the following three broad questions, or "decision points," around which they structured the alternative management approaches:

1. What level and extent of resource preservation treatment is desirable and appropriate to portray the historic conditions of the properties?

2. What should the parks be doing to maintain or build visitation and attract new audiences, and how can they best interpret these historic sites to generations that lack personal experience with the period?

3. How can the parks work in partnership to garner resources to enhance capacity for operations and services?

The team developed three management alternatives—a No-Action Alternative, as required by law and policy, and two "action alternatives," which respond to the broad decision points in different ways. The No-Action Alternative continued the current management direction. Action Alternative One emphasized restoring the historic appearance of the properties and encouraging visitors to explore more of the estate buildings and landscape. Action Alternative Two sought to make the parks relevant to more audiences by encouraging greater civic participation in park activities, while significantly enhancing the historic character of park resources.

In October 2007 a second newsletter or "Progress Report" describing the three alternatives was distributed to approximately 6,000 addresses and posted on the Internet. At the same time, the superintendent and planning team members reviewed the preliminary alternatives with park partners.

In August 2008, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt's core planning team met to identify the preferred alternative. The team reviewed the potential advantages and impacts, including those related to cost, the public comments received, and the relevant external influences. Based on this analysis, the planning team modified Action Alternative Two as it was presented in the "Progress Report." The planning team then recommended that the Northeast Regional Director identify the updated Action Alternative Two as the NPS Preferred Alternative. The Northeast Regional Director concurred with this recommendation.

The team then compiled and published the *Draft General Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft GMP/EIS)*. The document was made available for public review from December 24, 2009 to February 28, 2010. More than 100 copies of the draft and some 3,400 copies of a 16-page summary of the draft were distributed to individuals, agencies, and organizations. Copies of the draft were also posted on the Internet and public open houses were held on January 28 and 29, 2010.

The planning team carefully reviewed the 76 pieces of correspondence that were received. The comments required only minor responses and editorial corrections to the *Draft GMP/EIS*. Therefore, an abbreviated format was used for the final, and Action Alternative Two remained the NPS Preferred Alternative. The *Abbreviated Final GMP/EIS* was then made available to the public in July 2010.

After a 30-day "no-action" period, a Record of Decision was prepared to document the selected management option (the plan) and complete the environmental compliance requirements. A copy of the Record of Decision appears in Appendix A.

The NPS cosponsored a series of "Lenscape Expeditions" with the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association and the Dutchess County Arts Council as part of our efforts to build our mailing list and seek input from the community about the future of the parks. The workshops were led by regionally accomplished photographers, teamed with park staff members. These photos were taken by workshop participants. To view a larger sample of photographs from the workshops and see other photos taken of the parks, please visit www.flickr.com/groups/rova.

Foundation for the Plan

Purpose and Significance of the National Historic Sites

As described previously, the general management plan is based on the purpose and significance of the national historic sites. The National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 states the fundamental purpose of each unit in the national park system:

...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historical objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

The park purpose is further guided by the legislative history for each site. (To review key sections of the parks' legislative history, see "Appendix B: Legislation.") The purpose statements below present the fundamental reasons each park was established, based on the legislative history.

The significance statements focus on what is most important about each park or the resources from which the park derives its national significance. They are guided not only by the parks' legislation, but also by an understanding of the resources derived from research, management experience, and public input.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

PURPOSE

To preserve and interpret the birthplace, lifelong home, and memorial gravesite of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, so that current and future generations can appreciate the life and legacy of the longest-serving U.S. President—a man who led the nation through the two great crises of the 20th Century, the Great Depression and World War II.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1937

SIGNIFICANCE

The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS, together with the adjoining FDR Presidential Library, is the best place to understand the influences that helped shape the personality, values, and world view of the U.S. President who, in a time of deep national crisis, redefined the role of the federal government to provide more security and opportunity for its citizens and who led the nation into an era of profoundly greater involvement in world affairs. The unparalleled

assemblage of resources preserved here—the home and birthplace, gravesite, gardens, greenhouses, landscaped grounds, outbuildings, farmland, forests, farm roads, trails, views, furnishings and memorabilia, and the adjacent Presidential Library and its collections—offers unrivaled insight into the life and legacy of the 32nd U.S. President, who profoundly influenced the world in which we live.

Eleanor Roosevelt, 1936

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

PURPOSE

To commemorate and perpetuate the lifework of Eleanor Roosevelt, and to preserve and interpret the place most central to her emergence as a public figure, so that current and future generations can appreciate her life and legacy as a champion of democracy and human rights.

SIGNIFICANCE

Eleanor Roosevelt chose Val-Kill for her retreat, her office, her home, and her "laboratory" for social change during the prominent and influential period of her life from 1924 until her death in 1962. During that time she formulated and put into practice her social and political beliefs. This is the place most closely associated with one of the most important public figures of the 20th Century.

The Vanderbilt Mansion, circa 1950s

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

PURPOSE

To preserve and interpret the country estate of Frederick W. and Louise Vanderbilt as a premier example of an "American country place," illustrating important economic, social, and cultural developments resulting from America's industrialization following the Civil War.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historically known as Hyde Park, the site is a superb example of country-place design, with its centerpiece 50-room Beaux- Arts–style mansion surrounded by one of the most outstanding Hudson River picturesque landscapes remaining today. Developed with one of the country's first industrial fortunes, the country place represents the domestic ideal of the elite class in late 19th-Century America. It provides a context for studying estate life and the social stratification of the period and a glimpse into the world of the American elite prior to the Depression and World War II. The property's legacy as a celebrated landscape was among the factors that prompted FDR to direct the designation of the national historic site in 1940.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are tools to help people understand the importance of a national park. Based on the purpose and significance statements, the interpretive themes express the central meaning of a park's resources. Themes are conceptual—linking larger ideas and beliefs—rather than a simple listing of important topics or a chronology of events.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

AT HOME ON THE HUDSON RIVER

"All that is within me cries out to go back to my home on the Hudson River."

— FDR, July 11, 1944, in a letter agreeing to accept the Presidential nomination for a fourth term

Franklin D. Roosevelt was deeply rooted in the Hudson River Valley, which had been home to his ancestors since the 17th Century. FDR's father, James Roosevelt, purchased the Hyde Park home in 1867. After his death, the property remained under the shared management of FDR and his mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, until her death in 1941. The Roosevelt Family Estate was FDR's birthplace, his lifelong home, and the nucleus of his personal life and public career. The stability and security he experienced here helped mold his responses to both personal challenges and national crises. As president, he conducted official business during his frequent visits to his Hyde Park home. As his political ambitions and prominence grew, FDR adapted and enlarged the family home. He transformed the Italianate country villa into a formal Colonial Revival mansion, nearly doubled the size of the estate by acquiring upland farms, and designed and built a personal retreat, Top Cottage, set on a wooded hilltop looking out onto the Shawangunk Ridge and Catskill Mountains. The cottage and its surrounding landscape provided an intimate setting where he could meet with important visitors and close friends to discuss the state of the world or simply relax. He planned Top Cottage to accommodate his wheelchair and give him greater mobility. As a crowning expression of his attachment to his Hyde Park home, FDR chose the family rose garden as the final resting place for himself and his wife, Eleanor, and designed their plain white marble monument.

A LEADER DURING WORLD CRISES

"The only sure bulwark of continuing liberty is a government strong enough to protect the interests of the people, and a people strong enough and well enough informed to maintain its sovereign control over the government."

— FDR, Fireside Chat from the White House, April 14, 1938

Elected president in 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt led the nation through two great crises of the 20th Century, the Great Depression and World War II. In that troubled era he dominated American life through the force of his personality and his political mastery. During his unprecedented 12 years in office, he redefined the role of the federal government by forging a "New Deal" with the American people through the creation of federal agencies and policies designed to protect the poor, the unemployed, and the elderly and to provide greater opportunity for all Americans, while preserving the capitalist system. In World War II, he mobilized America's vast latent industrial resources and led a coalition of nations to defend democracy against authoritarian regimes. He enunciated the Four Freedoms—freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of speech and expression, and freedom to worship in one's own way—and embodied them in the United Nations, an organization that he hoped would guarantee lasting international peace.

President Roosevelt making a radio address at Hyde Park on Christmas Eve, 1943

FDR inspecting forestry work on his Hyde Park property, 1944

Civilian Conservation Corps inspection trip at Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, 1933

Eleanor Roosevelt in her living room at Val-Kill, 1957

HIS "LABORATORY" FOR IDEAS

"Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."

— FDR, January 29, 1935 in a statement given upon acceptance of the Schlich Forestry Medal

As the security he found on his family estate helped mold Franklin D. Roosevelt's character, he in turn expressed his ideas and values on this land. The property reflects his active pursuits in rural improvement and preserving local heritage. He acquired upland farms and used the new properties to explore and showcase ideas about land stewardship, conservation, and rural life. Here he practiced a type of wise-use conservation intended to improve the land, and also to help sustain the economic viability of farming and teach area farmers sound agricultural practices. His outdoor experiments and practical demonstrations at Hyde Park in many ways paralleled his state and national policies with regard to forestry, agriculture, and the environment. Here FDR also displayed his interest in architecture rooted in local heritage. He designed his Presidential Library, as well as his and Eleanor's private retreats, based on the traditional Dutch Colonial architecture of the Hudson River Valley. FDR's architectural influence can be seen in the design of many public structures in Hyde Park and across the country.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S LEGACY

Franklin Roosevelt championed issues and programs of enduring relevance to American society, including concern for the future of democracy, economic revitalization, and sustaining rural life. Agencies and programs such as Social Security, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation reflect and perpetuate his view of government's role in a just society. FDR was also the first president who made a conscious effort to perpetuate a physical legacy. He did so by creating a Presidential Library, thereby inventing the concept of presidential libraries, and by establishing his home as a national historic site. By donating family lands to the NPS and the National Archives and establishing a portion of the Vanderbilt Estate as a national historic site, FDR actively sought to preserve these resources for future generations.

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S PLACE: VAL-KILL

Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt's home, represents the emergence of her personal and political independence. With the freedom she felt there, Eleanor Roosevelt developed Val-Kill according to her tastes and interests. Its simple and casual décor, in marked contrast to the FDR Home, reflects her personality. Its informal, tranquil atmosphere and rural setting made it an important gathering place for Roosevelt family and friends. Over time, Eleanor Roosevelt used her Val-Kill home as a center for social activism and a meeting place for guests, ranging from students to world leaders.

ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM

Eleanor Roosevelt championed social welfare and civil rights, wielding influence without being elected to office. She supported sometimes controversial causes and interceded with FDR. "I was the agitator, and he was the politician," she said. Her political activism was forged through friendships with progressive reformers including Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman, whom she invited to live at Val-Kill. She toured the country and war zones on FDR's behalf, returning with detailed observations and determined advocacy. After FDR's death, any thoughts she entertained of a quiet retirement ended when President Truman named her a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. As chair of the UN Human Rights Commission, she was instrumental in winning acceptance in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a project close to her heart. Although she resigned her position in 1952, she continued to promote the UN and regarded her work with the world organization as her greatest source of satisfaction. In copious writings and public appearances and later teaching at Brandeis University, she continued to be a strong advocate for humanitarian concerns. Recalling her own difficult childhood, she enjoyed working with young people, especially the disadvantaged, and brought many of them to enjoy Val-Kill's charms. While she refused calls to be a candidate, she used her considerable influence to steer the Democratic Party in a progressive direction. Though she did not always prevail, she helped provide ordinary citizens and the underprivileged access to administrative and legislative power.

Eleanor Roosevelt hosts Wiltwyck School for Boys students at Val-Kill, 1954

HER "LABORATORY" FOR IDEAS

Eleanor Roosevelt used Val-Kill to express the interest in education and training that was evident in other portions of her life. With her associates, Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook, she established a business there named Val-Kill Industries that produced furniture, metal ware, and fabrics with the aim of reviving traditional crafts as a means to train and assist unemployed rural citizens. After FDR's death, Eleanor Roosevelt used the bulk of her own resources to purchase the east half of the estate, including some upland farms, Top Cottage, and Val-Kill, and immediately sold the property to her son Elliott for a farming venture, Val-Kill Farms. Her dedication to social improvement also found outlets farther afield, such as in the Arthurdale community in Appalachian West Virginia.

Eleanor Roosevelt at Val-Kill shop with apprentice, Karl Johannesen, 1931

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S LEGACY

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places close to home. So close and so small they cannot be seen on any map of the world. Yet they are *the world of the individual person: the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."*

—Eleanor Roosevelt, United Nations, 1958

Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt on the grounds at Hyde Park with their dogs, circa 1920

The pool and pool house in the Vanderbilt formal gardens, circa 1930

"Hyde Park, Hudson River." Currier and Ives print, circa 1935

The Reception Room of the Vanderbilt Mansion, circa 1940

To this day, the ideas addressed in the open atmosphere of Val-Kill remain vital to public debate and to the pursuit of democratic ideals. Eleanor Roosevelt's dogged advocacy of human rights and world peace, her firm insistence on social justice, her proud patriotism, and her commitment to individual and government action continue to inspire.

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

WEALTH AND SOCIETY IN THE INDUSTRIAL AGE

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site illustrates the rise of American industrial fortunes in the decades following the Civil War. Rapid industrialization allowed the accumulation of great wealth and sharpened class differences. In the late 19th Century, a new wealthy elite redefined the requirements for social standing. Rather than lineage, one's personal accomplishments, possessions, and philanthropic interests came to determine prestige. The Vanderbilt family epitomized this new American class, which looked to the residences of European nobility as the inspiration for its grand homes.

A HUDSON RIVER GREAT ESTATE

Vanderbilt Mansion NHS is a premier example of the Hudson River Valley great estates as they flourished before the Depression and World War II. The valley's extraordinary setting, which has inspired artists and authors, as well as architects, landscape designers, and conservationists, distinguishes the stately homes here from similar properties elsewhere. The great Hudson River estates contributed significantly to the development of the valley through close connections to the communities that grew up around them and provided much of their workforce. The comparison between the Vanderbilt Estate and the Roosevelt Estate, as well as other aristocratic country places in the Hudson River Valley, can reveal important differences in the lifestyles and tastes of the occupants.

A LEGACY OF THE PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE

The Vanderbilt Mansion NHS retains a designed landscape developed and adapted over the course of two centuries. Beginning in the 1790s, successive owners conducted horticultural experiments and extensive gardening at the country place known as Hyde Park. Around 1830, the Belgian landscape designer Andre Parmentier was hired to lay out a picturesque landscape including a system of roads, paths, and scenic vistas. Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt enhanced the features and grounds of the estate, which included an Italian garden designed by James Greenleaf. During much of its history, it also included a working farm with buildings designed by Alfred Hopkins.

PATRONAGE AND THE FLOWERING OF ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT

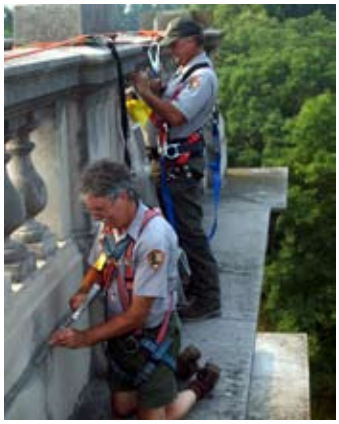
Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt acquired the Hyde Park estate during an era of remarkable artistic creativity and patronage in the United States, made possible in part by the nation's rising industrial fortunes. The Vanderbilts enlisted an army of professionals to create a place that would imitate and rival the palatial

houses of Europe. The Beaux–Arts-inspired mansion by McKim, Mead, and White is one of the finest examples of the renowned architectural firm's mature work. Other important architects, landscape architects, and decorators contributed to the estate and employed the finest craftsmen to outfit and furnish the Mansion. Ultimately, the landscape, architecture, and interiors represented by the Vanderbilt Mansion NHS came to exemplify the American Renaissance style and to embody the Vanderbilt family's role as modern "merchant princes" at the vanguard of finance, the arts, and international society.

The Need for the Plan

In consultation with members of the public and partners as described previously in "Developing the Plan," the planning team identified the following list of issues that the plan should address. The planning issues are presented in three categories that correspond to overarching goals of the NPS: 1) to preserve park resources; 2) to provide for visitor use and enjoyment, and 3) to ensure organizational effectiveness.

Preserving Park Resources



A threat to the resources is the backlog of preservation projects

CONDITION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

A generalized threat to the parks' cultural resources is the enormous backlog of preservation projects (totaling well over $50M in 2009) due to inadequate funding. Many of the parks' fundamental resources, including historic structures, designed landscapes, and museum objects, are in poor or serious condition. See "Critical Backlog of Maintenance and Preservation Projects" below, for further description of this issue.

DIMINISHED HISTORIC SETTING

The historic setting or rural context of the properties has diminished. The original rural setting is no longer evident. Over the years, the historic Roosevelt lands outside of NPS ownership along the eastern side of Route 9 have become increasingly built-up and commercial. Buildings, parking lots, and signs have been erected on lands that were FDR-era farm fields. The 100-foot deed restriction placed on this land by the trustees of the Roosevelt Estate has not been strictly enforced and is insufficient to protect the estate's historic agricultural character. Development pressures on former Roosevelt lands along Route 9, the "gateway" to the sites, threaten the historic setting. Beyond management of park lands, the planning team considered whether there is a feasible and appropriate role for the park in advocating for the protection of the parks' historic setting.

UNDETERMINED TREATMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS lands now total over 1,100 acres and include designed landscapes, former agricultural lands, forest plantations, managed woodlands, and orchards, stone walls, and historic roads and trails. The properties contain forest plantations that have gone unmanaged and are becoming unrecognizable. Former farm fields have become overgrown. Views of the

Hudson River from the FDR Home and the Vanderbilt Mansion are diminishing due to vegetative growth on the park property along the Hudson River. In addition, intensifying development pressures beyond park boundaries across the river in Ulster County could severely compromise views unless action is taken. There is also the opportunity to re-consider treatment of the Roosevelt Home Garden, now that the 1948 visitor parking area has been removed from the garden site. The planning team considered what type and level of treatment is desirable and appropriate for the cultural landscape, and whether there are better ways to portray its historic condition.

Forest plantations set out by FDR have gone unmanaged

INCONSISTENCIES ABOUT PERIODS OF TREATMENT AND INTERPRETATION

Over the years, different plans and studies had suggested various dates for the Period of Treatment (time when the property reached its height of development and when it best reflected the characteristics for which it is significant) and the Period of Interpretation (period of interpretive emphasis) for each park. Such determinations provide a reference for making decisions about the presentation of cultural resources and, through its effect on interpretive activities, have an impact on the visitor experience. Based on the purpose and significance statements, themes, and studies undertaken to inform the planning, the team developed a consensus on the periods of treatment and interpretation.

Providing for Visitor Use and Enjoyment

DECLINING VISITATION

As the Roosevelt era recedes into history and fewer people are connected to it by memory, visitation to the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites has declined, as is the case with many historic sites. The declines are most pronounced at the Home of FDR and Val-Kill. Vanderbilt visitation, although below its peak, has generally leveled off. In addition, site visitors do not reflect the diversity that now characterizes the U.S. population. A partner-based grant-supported marketing effort, "Historic Hyde Park," intended to help reverse this trend has met with some success. The planning team considered additional ways to encourage visitation.

Visitation to the sites is in decline and does not reflect the diversity of the U.S. population

UNDERUTILIZED RESOURCES

At present, visitors experience only a portion of the resources preserved at the parks. The primary interpretive experience continues to be a guided tour of the historic residences that has changed little since the parks were established. The majority of the other estate buildings and the cultural landscape are not adequately interpreted and therefore not fully appreciated. The team considered how the NPS could provide a more complete presentation of the park resources to the visitor.

Visitors experience only a portion of the resources preserved at the parks

APPROPRIATE RECREATIONAL USES

A network of designed trails traverses the parklands, including key segments of the town-wide Hyde Park Trail (a portion of which is designated a National Recreation Trail) but is underutilized. Park guidelines allow hiking on the

trails, while equestrian and motorized (ATV) uses are prohibited, and bicycle use, cross-country skiing, and snow shoeing are restricted to park roads and Roosevelt Farm Lane. However, experience shows that ATVs and mountain bikes are ridden throughout the national historic sites. The team looked at current trail use throughout the park and on adjacent trail networks to determine whether guidelines should be modified to make the trail system more accessible to visitors and to enable more effective controls on prohibited uses.

Participatory educational programs are generally under-enrolled

OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

An issue raised repeatedly by members of the public is the desire for more and improved educational opportunities at the parks. While a variety of participatory educational programs are offered, they are generally under-enrolled, with the overwhelming majority of students taking historic house tours instead. The programming also concentrates heavily on the Home of FDR NHS, with far fewer programs relating to Val-Kill and Vanderbilt. These programs reach about 3% of the overall visitors to the sites, or over 17,000 children per year. Given that the sites are located in the most densely populated region in the U.S., there is an opportunity to serve more students. Also, while the Wallace Center offers state-of-the-art conference and meeting space and is used for school groups, little dedicated space is available for hands-on programs. A single educational specialist serves all three parks. Seasonal staff may provide support to the education specialist on an ad-hoc basis. Roosevelt Library staff work with the NPS to coordinate education programs. The planning team considered ways in which the park could better support its educational programming.

CONGESTED ACCESS ROUTES

The parks are located between two and six miles apart on congested suburban roadways and are separated by disparate auto-oriented land uses. According to two studies conducted by the Volpe National Transportation and Systems Center, visitors traveling to Roosevelt-Vanderbilt experience traffic conflicts, delays, and risk of vehicular collision at park entries due to high levels of traffic congestion on access routes. This traffic congestion significantly detracts from the visitor experience. Moreover, visitation is effectively limited to users of private vehicles and group bus charters. Although the sites are located some five miles from New York City metro rail lines, they are not regularly accessible by this transit service. The planning team considered a coordinated framework for an alternative transit system.

Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness

CRITICAL BACKLOG OF MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION PROJECTS

As mentioned above under "Preserving Park Resources," a major operational capacity issue is the enormous backlog of cyclic maintenance and preservation projects and inadequate staffing with which to pursue those projects. While modest increases have been made to the park budget in the past few years, they are insufficient to overcome deepening shortfalls accruing over several decades from rising fixed costs (such as employee cost-of-living adjustments, retirement

and health insurance benefits, and utility costs) and the greater costs of overcoming the effects of deferred maintenance and preservation. Operations increases, such as additional seasonal positions afforded as part of the "National Park Centennial Initiative" (a broad effort by the Department of the Interior to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the NPS in 2016) and project funds, such as those through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), have provided some needed assistance but are not sufficient to remedy the outstanding backlog. The team considered whether there are new ways to garner resources and work with partners to help address the backlog.

INADEQUATE MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

Park maintenance operations are housed in historic structures within the parks. Since the 1970s, the maintenance division has been operating out of the Vanderbilt Coach House and the Bellefield outbuildings. Using these structures for maintenance operations undermines their long-term preservation. In addition, these facilities do not meet health and safety standards for NPS employees. The master plans for the FDR Home and for the Vanderbilt Mansion, completed some 30 years ago, called for the construction of a new maintenance facility and relocation of the maintenance function from the Vanderbilt Coach House. In 2001, the NPS prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the relocation of maintenance operations from the historic structures, and the Northeast Regional Director approved a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in January 2002. The EA/FONSI concluded that decades of constant use have caused impairments to the historic structures currently housing maintenance operations, and that the historic structures do not provide adequate facilities for a modern maintenance staff to work efficiently and effectively. Due to issues related to the town access road, the site that was under consideration for the maintenance facility at the time of the FONSI has since been utilized for a new museum services facility. The GMP team confirmed the need for a new maintenance facility and updated this proposal.

Park maintenance operations are housed in historic structures, which undermine the long-term preservation of the buildings

COORDINATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES

The mid-Hudson River region has a growing number of historic, natural resource, and cultural resource interest groups. One of the larger regional initiatives is the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt sites are located within the heritage area and are germane to its "Freedom and Dignity" theme. As significant attractions with nearly 500,000 visitors annually, the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt sites are expected to play a leadership role in the region. In addition, the park has formal agreements with several primary park partners (see "Park Partners" section) and works with many other organizations on stewardship initiatives affecting the broader region. Partner and volunteer efforts, while clearly beneficial, require ongoing involvement of park staff and a significant commitment of their time. At present, much of this is done as collateral duty. The planning team examined the role of partnerships in the parks, determined whether additional involvement is desirable and appropriate, and identified the requirements for such involvement.

The Plan

Goals for the National Historic Sites

A key step in developing the plan was the articulation of goals, the broad ideal conditions that park managers will strive to attain in perpetuity. In brief, the goals for Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites assert that the sites be protected, that park audiences be informed and satisfied, and that park managers work with others to foster stewardship. The goals are not listed in order of priority.

PRESERVING PARK RESOURCES

- All resources significant to the purposes of the parks are protected and preserved, with cultural and natural resources maintained in good condition.
- Resource management is guided by the highest quality research and analysis
- Through NPS and/or partner efforts, land outside of NPS ownership that constitutes the parks' historic setting is protected from incompatible development.

PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT

- Visitors are informed and oriented before they arrive; are comfortable, safe, and able to navigate easily among the sites throughout their visit; and leave with an enhanced understanding of the parks' resources and NPS priorities for stewardship.
- Actual and virtual audiences find interpretive materials, exhibits, and programs appealing and enriching. Interpretive presentations are upgraded in form and content.
- The parks attract new generations of visitors who better reflect the current diversity of the U.S. population.

ENSURING ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

- Partnership development is ongoing and builds constituencies that advocate for the long-term preservation of the sites and of related resources and values beyond park boundaries.
- The three national historic sites are administered in a safe, energy-efficient, and cost-effective manner, with park support facilities located to

The plan seeks to make the parks relevant to more audiences

Resource management will follow contemporary best practices for land management within certain areas

A wider range of activities for visitors will be offered

allow the greatest efficiency with the least impact on park resources and the surrounding community.

- There is sufficient park staff, support facilities, and equipment to protect and preserve resources, with the maintenance backlog largely eliminated. Funding, staffing levels and capabilities, partnerships, volunteer programs, and technology are secure, cost-effective, and used efficiently to enhance overall operations. Staff research, training, scholarship, and professional development are encouraged and facilitated.

Overview

The plan seeks to make the parks relevant to more audiences by encouraging greater civic participation in park activities, while significantly enhancing the historic character of park resources. These efforts are in keeping with the historic residents' use of the land for outdoor recreation and resource stewardship. Resource management efforts will focus on the cultural landscape and on rehabilitating existing features, while following contemporary best practices for land management within some areas. Resource management decisions will be guided by programmatic needs, especially interpretation. The reconstruction of missing buildings and other features of the landscape lost since the historic period will be limited; generally they will be represented by new features of similar massing and scale, or through interpretive media. Construction of new trail segments to support visitor access will be allowed. The main residences will continue to be presented as historic house museums, with select historic outbuildings adaptively re-used for NPS or partner programs.

Efforts to build and maintain visitation will focus on providing a wide range of activities, including recreational activities, special events, and programs to reach varied audiences. While interpretation will be place-based, it will make a deliberate attempt to use resources to explore issues of contemporary relevance. A learning center will be established to expand the scope and magnitude of the educational programs. Creation and presentation of these new programs will depend largely on partners, with some NPS employees functioning more as coordinators and facilitators than at present.

The plan foresees a significant expansion of partnership activities in the operation of the sites and opens up greater potential for new approaches to generating revenue to help sustain and improve operations.

Management Objectives and Potential Actions

Below, plan elements are described by topic under the categories of "Preserving Park Resources," "Visitor Use and Experience," and "Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness." After a brief narrative summary, the "management prescriptions" or objectives are presented (**in bold**) followed by a list of potential actions. The management objectives describe the resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained over time, and the kinds and levels of management activities, visitor use, and development that are appropriate. The

potential actions represent current thinking as to the most effective way of accomplishing the objectives, but they are subject to change should more appropriate ways of achieving the objectives come to light in the future.

Preserving Park Resources

Condition of Cultural Resources

Park managers will make the preservation and maintenance of park resources a priority and seek new resources and expertise to help support such activities.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Preservation and maintenance of park resources is made a priority in plan implementation.

- Develop an implementation strategy that sets specific funding targets from available sources and establishes maintenance and preservation activities as priority items.

New resources and expertise help support the costs of maintenance and preservation.

- Continue to seek available funding sources for maintenance and preservation projects.
- Work with partner groups to generate new sources of revenue to support resource preservation activities, as well as implement the plan
- Provide more opportunities for partners to assist with maintenance activities through volunteer efforts and through building and ground leases or other mechanisms.
- Seek to fill positions to increase the parks' maintenance and preservation capacity.

Treatment of Historic Structures

Park managers will seek to preserve the primary historic structures in good condition. The historic residences—FDR Home, Val-Kill Cottage, and Vanderbilt Mansion—will continue to be presented as fully furnished historic house museums. The cottages—Top Cottage and Stone Cottage—will be presented as exhibits. (See "Appendix E: Treatment, Use, and Condition of Primary Historic Buildings.")

The historic homes will continue to be presented as fully furnished house museums

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Primary historic structures are repaired and maintained in good condition. The historic homes continue to be presented as fully furnished interiors that reflect a defined treatment period.

- Present the FDR Home as a fully furnished interior reflecting the late FDR period: circa 1941.
- Present the Val-Kill Cottage as a fully furnished interior reflecting the late ER period: circa 1960.
- Present the Vanderbilt Mansion as a fully furnished interior reflecting the late Vanderbilt period: circa 1938.

Top Cottage continues to be used for activities and programs that support its long-term preservation and preserve its intimate and quiet atmosphere.

- Present Top Cottage as a furnished exhibit reflecting the late FDR period: circa 1944; furnish with reproductions that can be used by visitors.
- Continue to use Top Cottage for small-group meetings and conferences, as outlined in current agreements, with access provided by shuttle.

At Val-Kill, Stone Cottage is opened to the public on a regular basis and presented as an interpretive exhibit.

- Present Stone Cottage interiors via interpretive exhibits and other media.
- Use the first floor for occasional special events and the second floor for an ERVK office, as outlined in current agreements.

Collections will be preserved in good condition, with the original appearance and quality of the furnished interiors maintained

Treatment of Collections

Park managers will seek to preserve the collections in good condition and return original and associated collections to the national historic sites as they become available. Collections management will emphasize maintaining and restoring the original appearance and quality of the historic furnished interiors of the residences. In addition, access to the collections and collections records will be improved.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Collections are preserved in good condition so that they continue to support park programs and interpretive themes.

- Continue to make the conservation and maintenance of the collections a priority for funding and implementation to address the backlog of collections care.
- Seek the return of original and associated collections to the parks as they become available.
- Advocate for the protection of related collections held by others.
- Emphasize maintaining and restoring, where possible, the original appearance and quality of the historic furnished interiors of the main residences through ongoing conservation. Permit the use of reproductions of objects not available to the NPS to complete the historic scene.
- Explore and implement creative, passive approaches to improving the environmental conditions for objects in the collections, such as mitigating fluctuations in humidity by keeping doors and windows shut, and regulating temperatures by using insulation and thermostatically controlled dampers.
- Improve public access to collections and archives for research through the creation of more finding aids, including use of the Internet, and other means.

Treatment of Cultural Landscapes

Resource management will focus on rehabilitating cultural landscapes to enhance the historic character of the properties and perpetuate historic land uses, while allowing for compatible alterations that support educational or utilitarian purposes.

The historic character of the cultural landscapes will be enhanced

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

The views are rehabilitated to reflect their appearance during the periods of significance.

- Based on a viewshed management plan, expand field size as needed and reduce canopy height at the Home of FDR to improve the view of the Hudson River, but adjust as needed to screen out incompatible development and protect freshwater wetlands, sensitive species, vernal pools, and other natural resource values.
- Minimize encroachment of invasive species and other vegetation in open areas and reduce tree canopy height to maintain and enhance the view at Vanderbilt while protecting mature oak-tulip tree forest and wetlands.
- Maintain the restored views to the west and the northwest at Top Cottage.

Forest plantations are actively managed, with treatments ranging from preserving historic character to demonstrating modern forestry practices.

- Inventory, map, mark, and identify forest plantations to identify historic limits, species, and planting dates.
- Based on a forest management plan, employ a range of treatments extending from perpetuating species composition, size, and location through in-kind replacement to using contemporary best practices, which can include planting species that were not used historically, planting on areas that were not historically forest plantations, harvesting of timber, and use for research and demonstration purposes (as they were used by FDR).

Woodlands will be actively managed

Natural woodlands are actively managed, with treatments ranging from perpetuating historic character to managing for ecological diversity.

- Based on a forest management plan, employ a range of treatments extending from perpetuating historic character as managed forests (manicured, maintained, and productive forests) in discrete demonstration areas to managing for ecological diversity and habitat values to the degree possible.
- Based on an invasive species management plan, manage invasive plant species to protect ecological diversity and habitat values, as well as the historic character in certain locations.

Designed landscapes will be rehabilitated to reflect their historic appearance

The existing designed landscapes are rehabilitated to reflect their historic appearance, with missing garden features indicated through new elements or interpretive media.

- Based on cultural landscape treatment and preservation maintenance plans, rehabilitate the designed landscapes to more closely reflect

their respective treatment dates (Home of FDR circa 1941 with Top Cottage circa 1944; Val-Kill circa 1960; Vanderbilt circa 1938). Involve partners in major rehabilitation activities.

- Rehabilitation will involve: preserving character-defining features (i.e. structures, circulation, and layout); repairing garden features of the periods; upgrading plantings to be more consistent with historic periods but substituting modern varieties for hard-to-obtain plants or to address pest/maintenance issues; bringing path and roadway surfaces and alignments closer to historic conditions; and indicating missing features through new physical elements of similar massing and scale or through interpretive media. At the Home of FDR, this treatment will allow for the establishment of a community garden on the site of the FDR Home Garden modeled on the Victory Gardens of WW II, if funding for development and ongoing maintenance can be assured. (The community garden design will recall the character of the historic garden, but not be an accurate replica.) At Vanderbilt, this treatment will allow for the replacement of one or more of the greenhouses, if needed for garden operation, and if funding for construction and ongoing maintenance can be assured.
- At Bellefield, rehabilitate the "wild garden" portion of the Farrand Garden to improve the pedestrian connections between Bellefield and the Wallace Center, if funds for its development and ongoing maintenance can be assured.

Eleanor Roosevelt's Cutting Garden will remain the focus of a memorial to her

Eleanor Roosevelt's Cutting Garden at Val-Kill remains the focus of a memorial to ER and is rehabilitated to reflect its historic appearance and enhance its identity as a place of contemplation.

- Develop programs to support the purposes of the memorial specified in the park's enabling legislation and inspire greater reflection on the life and legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt.
- Seek volunteer and partner participation to support development and maintenance.
- Based on a cultural landscape treatment and maintenance preservation plan, rehabilitate the Cutting Garden, including adjacent potting sheds, to have a character similar to the historic garden, but allow flexibility of detail to support programs that increase awareness of the memorial and enhance its identity as a place of contemplation.

Former farm fields will reflect their historic appearance

The former farm fields reflect their historic appearance, with agricultural use reinstated.

- Based on an agricultural lands management plan, rehabilitate the historic field-forest pattern by removing woody successional growth from some overgrown areas.
- To maintain open fields, allow select areas to be put back into agricultural production through lease, cooperative agreement, or other appropriate mechanism.
- Allow for flexibility in planting crops, pasturing animals, and employing contemporary farming practices.

The historic appearance and location of the historic roads and trails are rehabilitated, based on programmatic and interpretive needs.

- Based on an historic resource study and treatment plan, remove non-historic surfaces on key roads and trails and replace with those that suggest the original earth/gravel surfaces but are easier to maintain.
- Re-establish historic widths and alignments on key roads and trails to support interpretive purposes.
- Indicate locations of missing roads and trails that connect with existing routes through physical means, such as by mowing corridors through fields, or by interpretive media.

Important Natural Communities

Park managers will fully protect and enhance important natural communities, as possible. Surveys will be undertaken to document the important natural communities and populations, to educate visitors about these communities, and to monitor visitor-use impacts to help mitigate effects on resources.

Important natural communities will be protected

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Important natural communities on parklands are fully protected and preserved, with management actions taken to enhance their viability.

- Document and map, as appropriate, important natural communities, landscapes, and populations (i.e. vernal pools, seeps, invertebrate populations, and bats).
- Monitor visitor-use impacts to help mitigate effects on resources, and limit visitor access in sensitive areas, as necessary.
- Enhance stewardship of red cedar rocky summit forest type through vegetation management or prescribed fire.
- Improve flushing action at the Roosevelt Cove freshwater tidal marsh by working with CSX (owner of the railroad embankment) to install additional culverts under the embankment.
- Enhance the mature oak-tulip tree forest community: fully protect this area, especially the 40-acre core, when conducting viewshed management activities and forestry activities; expand the width of the shrub layer along the forest edge adjacent to this community to provide a greater buffer between it and the field.

Historic Setting (Lands Outside NPS Ownership)

Park managers will be actively engaged with a broad-based coalition of interested parties—governmental entities, land trusts, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, concerned citizens—to protect the sweeping views of the Hudson Valley that have become emblematic of the Great Estates region. In addition, they will work collaboratively with partners to protect the parks' historic setting, and to re-establish the rural character of the Route 9 and Route 9G corridors in the vicinity of the parks, to the extent practicable.

Park managers will engage with a broad-based coalition to protect the sweeping views of the Hudson Valley

The rural character of the Route 9 and 9G corridors will be re-established as practicable

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Lands across the Hudson River that constitute the sweeping views of the Hudson Valley are protected by a broad-based coalition of interested parties.

- Continue to raise the profile of this critical issue and highlight the positive role that these important scenic resources play in the Hudson Valley.
- Develop an atlas of lands beyond park boundaries that lie within the park viewsheds and share the information with interested parties.
- Work in partnership with governmental entities, land trusts, non-profit organizations, and others to convene forums, examine other regional viewshed protection efforts as potential models, disseminate information, and develop action plans to protect the viewsheds.

The lands outside NPS ownership that constitute the parks' historic setting are protected, with the rural character of the Route 9 and Route 9G corridors re-established in the vicinity of the parks to the extent practicable.

- Continue to work with the Hudson Valley Welcome Center Partners (the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Scenic Hudson, and the Town of Hyde Park) to protect the remaining undeveloped Roosevelt Family Estate lands between Route 9 and Route 9G.
- Work proactively with property owners and actively advocate for limiting development on lands within or near the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt estates.
- Work cooperatively with local officials, property owners, and other interested parties to protect the remaining resources associated with the Vanderbilt Farm.
- Continue to engage in the state review (SEQR) process to influence land-use decisions on lands outside of NPS ownership, but within or adjacent to the parks' boundaries that are integral to the historic setting.
- Work proactively to facilitate the protection and compatible use of the Val-Kill Tea Room (located on former Roosevelt Family Estate lands), by partners or others. Interpret for visitors the history of the tea house and its relationship to Val-Kill Industries.
- Participate with other affected landowners in enforcing the existing 100-foot deed restriction in place along the east side of Route 9 on former Roosevelt Family Estate lands, and work with the Town of Hyde Park to institute a parallel overlay in the zoning ordinance.
- Work cooperatively to develop a town dock and river access on properties held by others, while protecting the scenic quality of the Hudson riverfront.

The Red House is protected through NPS acquisition and Partnership efforts.

- Acquire full-fee or less-than-fee interest in the Red House property; seek a partner through lease or other mechanism to adaptively re-use the structure for compatible use.

- If no partner can be found, allow the structure to be used for park purposes compatible with its long-term preservation until such time as an appropriate partner is identified.

Research and Scholarship

Research, evaluation, and monitoring of cultural landscapes, museum collections, historic architecture, archeological resources, and natural resources will be undertaken and scholarship facilitated to advance the understanding of the parks.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

The management of park resources is improved through research, evaluation, monitoring, and planning. Scholarship advances understanding of the parks' significance, guides interpretation and educational programs, and explores interpretive themes from differing viewpoints.

- Conduct research and develop plans to serve as foundations for the preservation and treatment of park resources and for the development of interpretive and educational programs. Such research/plans would include archeological investigations, cultural landscape treatment plans, and historic structures reports.
- Make the studies and plans more widely available to park partners and the general public.

Providing for Public Use and Enjoyment

Period of Interpretation

Park managers will clearly define a period of emphasis to guide interpretation.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

The period of interpretation for each park (or the period the park stories emphasize) is clearly defined and supports interpretive objectives.

- The period of interpretation for the Home of FDR NHS resources is from 1867 to 1945, the year of Roosevelt occupancy to the year of FDR's death (with 1962 addressed as the year of ER's death and burial in the Roosevelt family's rose garden).
- The period of interpretation for Val-Kill resources is from 1924 to 1962, the year when the decision was made to build Val-Kill to the year of ER's death.
- The period of interpretation for Vanderbilt resources is from 1764 to 1938, the year of the Bard occupancy to the year of Frederick Vanderbilt's death.

Orientation and Arrival

Park managers will make pre-arrival information and updated orientation materials available to visitors through a variety of venues. The visitor arrival

sequences will be evaluated and modified as necessary to improve the park entry and visitor wayfinding.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Orientation materials for the three sites are updated and are widely distributed throughout the region. Information, ticketing, and reservations for the parks, as well as for regional attractions, are made widely available.

- Update printed and web-based orientation materials for all three sites to reflect current conditions.
- Provide visitors traveling to the park with ready access to pre-arrival information through a variety of venues, including NPS and partner websites and printed materials available throughout the Hudson Valley.
- Continue to work with the Hudson Valley Welcome Center Partners to develop the proposed Hudson Valley Welcome Center on lands between Route 9 and Route 9G and to provide a central point for tourists, visitors, and residents to get comprehensive information on the rich variety of visitor attractions and services available throughout the valley.
- Provide well-marked visitor access routes with good directional signage and onsite orientation information.
- Continue to direct visitors via pre-arrival and orientation materials to the Wallace Center as the starting point for tours of Home of FDR NHS, to Val-Kill Cottage as the starting point for tours of Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, and to the Pavilion as the starting point for tours of Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, where tickets for tours can be purchased.

Visitors have a sense of arriving at places of great importance and easily understand how to begin their park experience.

- Minimize the visual impact of the Bellefield park support functions at the main entry to the Home of FDR NHS by removing from public view machinery, equipment, maintenance vehicles, deer fencing, dumpsters, and other non-historic elements.
- As part of a development concept plan for the Bellefield property, identify and implement measures to correct the misconception that Bellefield Mansion is the Home of FDR and the starting place for a visitor tour.
- Upgrade and clarify signage at Val-Kill to help visitors understand where to begin their visit.
- Designate a more appropriate location for parking of staff vehicles and prohibit staff parking at the main entrance to the Vanderbilt Mansion NHS. (See "Park Housing" section below.)

Visitor Use

In partnership with others, park managers will offer a wide array of visitor experiences, such as forestry or farming demonstrations and recreation-based

interpretation. Changing exhibits and forums will explore the contemporary relevance of park themes from varying perspectives to reach audiences that currently do not visit the sites. Greater consideration will be afforded to the "cyber" visitor, with web content increased and coordinated with the changing exhibits and discussion forums. Select historic structures will be adaptively reused for NPS or partner programmatic functions. Some estate buildings now closed to the public, such as the Vanderbilt Power House, will remain so, but greater focus will be placed on their interpretation. Guided tours of the residential interiors will remain a primary visitor offering, but will offer a fuller presentation of the structures, and tour group size will be re-evaluated to support interpretive and resource management objectives. In addition, connections to the Hudson River will be improved.

Guided tours will offer a fuller presentation of the historic residences

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Guided tours of the residential interiors continue to be a primary interpretive experience but offer a fuller presentation of the structures, with tour group size managed to support interpretive and resource management objectives.

- Re-evaluate the number of people allowed per tour in the main residences and cottages. Establish new upper limits on the number of people per tour, if warranted, to ensure the protection of resources and a high-quality visitor experience.
- At the FDR Home, increase public access to the kitchen, service areas, and FDR office; continue interpretation through guided tours of fully furnished interiors.
- At Top Cottage, continue interpretation through "seminar-style" guided tours, using replacement furnishings (that can be used by the public), and continue to allow public access by shuttle only.
- At Val-Kill Cottage, continue to allow public access as at present; continue interpretation through guided tours of fully furnished interiors.
- At Stone Cottage, open first floor to the public on a regularly scheduled basis; interpret through guided tours and self-guided permanent exhibits, not fully furnished interiors (to allow greatest flexibility in use of space); allow first floor to be used for special events on an occasional basis.
- At the Vanderbilt Mansion, increase public access to the basement, service areas, and upper floors; continue interpretation through guided tours of fully furnished interiors, but also explore the feasibility of developing new media for interpretation of Mansion.

The visitor experience is improved by offering a wider array of experiences to appeal to a broader range of audiences and to enhance understanding of the contemporary relevance of park themes.

- With partners, provide cultural landscape tours, new special events, ongoing demonstrations (e.g. forestry, farming, or gardening), and recreation-based interpretation.

- Develop media to enhance self-guided interpretation of the landscape and outbuilding exteriors.
- Indicate through media or physical means the boundaries of the properties acquired by FDR and Frederick W. Vanderbilt.
- With partners, establish a program of changing exhibits in dedicated spaces such as the FDR Stables, Top Cottage bedroom wing, a portion of the Val-Kill Stable-Garage, and Vanderbilt Coach House and Pavilion to explore park themes from varying perspectives. Design programs to involve populations who currently do not visit the parks. Build lecture series and other public discussion forums.
- Increase focus on "cyber visitors;" enhance content and availability of web-based materials.
- Promote the Farrand Garden more fully as a public destination.

The Vanderbilt Coach House is rehabilitated and adaptively re-used for a thematically related public function.

- At Vanderbilt, once the maintenance function is removed from the Coach House, seek a partner to adaptively re-use the structure (or a portion of the structure) via lease or other mechanism for a thematically related activity with a public component (e.g. garden center, inn, other hospitality function). Requirements of such use include: preservation of the historic structure and its setting; and provision of space for visitor services and display of historic vehicles. (Should no private partner be identified in the near-term, NPS would still relocate the maintenance function to a new facility and consider opening areas of the Coach House for tours in its current condition, while working to establish the partnership.)

Connections to the Hudson River and water-borne park access are increased.

- In collaboration with partners, create a focal point at Roosevelt Cove to interpret the historic connections to the Hudson River estuary.
- In collaboration with partners, designate Bard Rock as an undeveloped "day use" site on the Hudson River Water Trail to promote river-related access and interpretation.
- Help promote special events undertaken by partner organizations that highlight the Hudson River and water-related activities.

Educational Programming

In cooperation with partners, park managers will establish a place-based learning center to serve an audience extending from children to seniors. Teaching and programming space will be provided in estate outbuildings to augment space available in the Wallace Center.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Educational programming is expanded, upgraded, and serves a wide age distribution.

- Continue to coordinate with the Presidential Library on educational programming.
- Based on an education plan, expand existing and establish new partnerships to institute a place-based learning center that delivers high-quality educational programs to serve life-long learners, from children to seniors, for all three sites. Programming could include after-school sessions and day camps; college internships; senior programs; and teacher resources.
- Incorporate "Teaching the Hudson Valley" into the learning center program.
- Augment the space available in the Wallace Center with dedicated teaching space for the learning center in such locations as the Bellefield outbuildings, and if needed, the Vanderbilt Coach House.

Educational programming will be enhanced

Recreational Use

Park managers will actively promote recreational use of trails, provided the uses support resource management objectives, and will upgrade the parks' trail system. Park managers will also work with partners to establish a continuous multi-use trail to link the park sites.

Recreational use of the trails will be promoted

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Recreational use of the trails is actively promoted as a way to experience and learn about the parks' resources and themes.

- Map all roads and trails and incorporate trail information into park brochures and other standard orientation materials.
- Based on an historic resource study, rehabilitate the historic trail system and add new non-historic trail segments to support visitor access.
- Based on a multi-use trail master plan (and historic resource study) designate specific shared-use trails.
- Eliminate currently authorized trails and unauthorized trails that cannot be properly maintained or that contribute to resource damage, even if they are historic.
- With partner support, develop recreation-based programs, events, and tours (i.e. extended nature hikes, bicycle-based tours, cross-country skiing, picnicking-at-the-park programs, running events, and snow-shoe tours) that are tied to interpretation.
- Manage trail uses to ensure the long-term protection of natural and cultural resources.
- Promote Top Cottage more strongly to hikers as a destination that offers a sense of retreat.

Trail accessibility for people with disabilities is improved.

- Provide information that enables people with disabilities to make informed trail decisions (i.e. trail grade, cross slope, width, surface

firmness, and the presence of obstacles) via signage, park brochures, handouts and information sheets, and the Internet.

Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness

Park Support Facilities

As called for in approved planning documents, to support the long-term preservation of the historic structures, and to provide adequate health and safety standards for employees, park managers will relocate the maintenance operation from the Vanderbilt Coach House and from the Bellefield outbuildings (Stone Garage, Yellow Barn, and Block Garage) to a new structure. A new, consolidated maintenance facility that meets health and safety standards will be developed in a location that has minimum impact on prime visitor and resource areas and meets identified criteria. Should such a site not exist within the authorized boundary, a new location will be sought for the development of the facility.

The Bellefield property will be retained as park headquarters and updated to make more efficient use of space for administrative functions, to improve the vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems throughout the property, and to expand and screen staff parking.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

New facilities enhance operational efficiency.

- Relocate the maintenance facilities from historic structures (Vanderbilt Coach House and Bellefield Outbuildings) to a new consolidated maintenance facility sited in a location that has minimum impact on prime visitor and resource areas and meets the following criteria: provides adequate space for a building and associated maintenance yards and vehicle parking; is easily accessible by road and allows for heavy truck use; is free of wetlands, floodplain, threatened and endangered species, and prime agricultural soils; has relatively gentle topography; and can be visually and aurally screened from neighbors.
- Should such a site not exist within the authorized park boundary, a new location will be selected for the development of the maintenance facility. If land selected for the facility is outside of the authorized park boundary, an administrative or legislative boundary change will be required, depending upon the size and location of the property.

The Bellefield property functions efficiently as park headquarters and is made more available for partner and public use.

- Plan, design, and implement modifications to the Bellefield property to make more efficient use of its space for administrative functions, to improve the vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems, to expand and screen Bellefield parking, to enhance pedestrian

connections between the Wallace Center and the Farrand Garden, and to accommodate new functions in the Bellefield outbuildings.
- Allow partners to use certain spaces in the Bellefield Mansion and grounds for targeted fund-raising events, so long as park operations are not disrupted and the events support the purposes of the parks.

Park Housing

Park managers will ensure that seasonal and temporary staff members and visiting scholars and researchers have access to suitable housing, either through arrangements with local property owners or through park housing.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Seasonal and temporary staff members and visiting scholars and researchers have access to affordable, clean, and well-maintained housing.

- Provide suitable housing through arrangements with local property owners or through provision of on-site housing. Continue to provide housing in the Stone House and Duplex at the Home of FDR; and Gardeners Cottage, and Upper and Lower Gatehouses at Vanderbilt.
- Develop and implement guidelines for the use of park housing and take measures to ensure that cars, equipment, and other personal effects stored outdoors do not intrude on the historic scene. Provide alternate arrangements for staff parking for the Vanderbilt Upper Gatehouse.

Sustainability

Park managers will seek to reduce utility bills and the parks' carbon footprint.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

The parks reduce utility costs and their carbon footprint through conserving energy, increasing efficiency, relying more heavily on green sources of energy, and increasing use of alternative fuels.

- Conduct an energy audit and implement its recommendations.
- Evaluate the feasibility of using alternative sources of energy to power park support buildings, as well as historic buildings.
- Develop the new maintenance facility and any other new facilities according to "green principles" to the extent possible.
- Replace inefficient systems and equipment with higher-efficiency systems and equipment.
- Conduct an evaluation of fuels to determine whether park vehicles can use alternative sources.
- Participate in NPS and other programs addressing climate change.

Car-Free Access

To improve car-free access to the parks, park managers will structure and implement an alternative transit system.

Car-free access to the parks will be improved

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

A sustainable transit (shuttle and tram) system offers an attractive alternative to automobile use, encourages multi-site visitation, and increases mobility for people with ambulatory difficulties. Traffic-calming measures provide greater safety for park visitors traversing access routes.

- Conduct a multi-year field demonstration to determine optimum service characteristics of a shuttle system.
- Based on the field demonstration, acquire vehicles as warranted to reduce the cost of the services contract with the operator.
- Monitor visitor satisfaction with the service and modify as necessary to support changing visitor use patterns.
- Support the shuttle by a set-aside in tour fees and, if necessary, by an additional on-board fare and by intermittently increased fees.
- Provide facilities as necessary, such as shuttle stops and/or shelters and maps and other information to support public use of the service.
- Work with the New York State Department of Transportation, the Town of Hyde Park, and other partners to provide safe pedestrian, bicycle, and shuttle crossings at Route 9 and Route 9G and implement traffic-calming measures.
- With partner support, expand the system to serve regional destinations.

Funding

Park managers will seek new and augmented sources of revenue and will evaluate and implement a variety of new entrepreneurial ventures and fee-based programs.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

New and augmented sources of revenue are actively sought to help support operations, maintenance, collections care, and provision of visitor services. Revenue-generating ventures that are within NPS authority and do not interfere with or adversely impact park operations, administration, or preservation are evaluated and implemented.

- Continue to rely on base budget plus entrance fees, special-use fees, and program funding.
- Seek increased authorities for visitor and special-use fees periodically to help defray repair and other project costs.
- Seek increased authorities for special program fees and/or arrangements with partners to conduct special programs for a fee (e.g. "After Hours" evening tours of the Vanderbilt Mansion).
- Allow certain areas of Bellefield (e.g. Morgan Room, terrace, Farrand Garden) and Vanderbilt (e.g. Pavilion, grounds, gardens) and Top Cottage (limited to small groups and to shuttle access) to be used for targeted fund-raising opportunities with partners that are advancing park purposes.
- Based on a feasibility study, lease historic structures that are deemed

not essential solely for interpretation to help support their preservation.
- Develop a park-wide "branding" system and value-added branded products with partners to strengthen the identity of the parks and to generate revenue to support park activities.
- Develop a licensing program for product lines to generate a dedicated revenue source to support park activities.

Staffing

The NPS staff will be joined by others to provide visitor services, maintain resources, and assist with park operations. Rather than carrying out tasks themselves, park staff will function more as coordinators and facilitators (through cooperative agreements, leases, special use permits, and other mechanisms) than at present, and act to ensure the protection of cultural and natural resources on parklands through clear communication of NPS priorities and policies. The new administrative structure, however, will require additional NPS staff to meet the needs of partnership building and coordination, as well as to support expanded operations and use of facilities.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

The number of park staff, augmented by extensive partnership and volunteer resources, is sufficient to achieve the objectives outlined in this plan.

- Seek increases in staff devoted to partnership coordination, maintenance, museum services, and visitor protection.
- Park staff members in some positions, such as in educational programming and interpretation, function as facilitators and coordinators of partner and volunteer efforts more than at present.
- Augment staff with extensive partner and volunteer efforts.
- Work with partners to endow critical positions.

Marketing and Promotion

Park managers will continue to collaborate with others on marketing efforts and will make marketing and promotion an ongoing operational activity.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Marketing and promotion are considered ongoing park operational activities.

- Continue to seek funding and collaborate on marketing and other activities through "HistoricHydePark.org" and through other efforts.
- Seek sources of funding and new partners to promote the parks to a more diverse audience.

Partnerships

Partnerships will be enhanced and expanded to develop new interpretive opportunities, establish a place-based learning center, and expand outreach,

Partnerships will be enhanced and expanded

coordination, and cross-promotion with other organizations. In order to achieve this level of partner participation, a coordinating entity made up of organizations whose primary mission is to support the parks will be sought.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

Existing partnerships are continued and communication between the park and partners is improved.

- Continue to work closely with and support the efforts of existing partner organizations whose work supports the purposes of the parks: The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill; Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt: A Project to Preserve Her Val-Kill Home; The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association; The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association; and The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association.
- Continue to work closely with the FDR Presidential Library and Museum to provide a cohesive visitor experience at the FDR Home and Library, conduct joint operations in the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, produce joint programs, coordinate interpretive materials, ticketing, and transit, reduce any redundant management activities, develop a cooperative strategy for cultural landscape treatment and management, and promote complementary collections activities.
- Continue to provide technical assistance to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and seek collaborative opportunities with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program, the Hudson River Institute (Marist College), and others to further the goals of the heritage area.
- Continue to work with schools and other partners to implement the "Teaching the Hudson Valley" program and to tie the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt families' lives in Hyde Park to the regional story of the Hudson River Valley.
- Continue to collaborate with the Roosevelt Institute, the primary support organization for the Library, to protect Roosevelt-related resources associated with the historic Roosevelt Family Estate.
- Continue to join forces with the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, Roosevelt Institute, and Presidential Library & Museum on marketing and other activities through "HistoricHydePark.org."
- Continue to work closely with the Hudson Valley Welcome Center Partners and others as appropriate, to advance the proposed Hudson Valley Welcome Center project on lands between Route 9 and Route 9G.
- Continue to connect the parks' interpretive programs with those of other thematically related sites, such as those associated with Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the Vanderbilts, other presidents, and the Hudson Valley.
- Continue to work cooperatively with other partners in the Hyde Park Trail and Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail networks to extend

and improve the trail system, including forging new links north to Mills-Norrie State Park in Hyde Park and south to Quiet Cove and Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie.
- Continue to work with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to manage invasive plant species, as well as to advance other stewardship objectives.
- Update existing agreements and establish new agreements with partners as necessary.
- Distribute to partners an annotated directory that includes contact information and roles and functions of park staff.
- Host periodic "meet and greets" with partners and park staff, as well as occasional presentations of park staff work.
- Provide appropriate NPS training and technical assistance to help volunteers and partners better carry out their roles.
- Develop collaborations among partners as a way to build resources with which to strengthen each partner's capacity.

Partnerships are expanded to develop new interpretive opportunities (including the learning center), conduct resource management, and generate revenues. A new partner umbrella group facilitates coordination and enhances capacity of the partner organizations.

- Work with partners to expand revenue generation to support park operations, maintenance, and programs.
- Work with partners to develop and deliver interpretive tours, demonstration programs, special events, and recreation-based interpretive activities, and institute the learning center.
- Work with partners and volunteers to increase assistance with maintenance of cultural landscapes and historic structures, through leases or other mechanisms.
- Work with partners to explore diverse aspects and the enduring relevance of site themes through lectures, conferences, seminars, changing exhibits, and other forums.

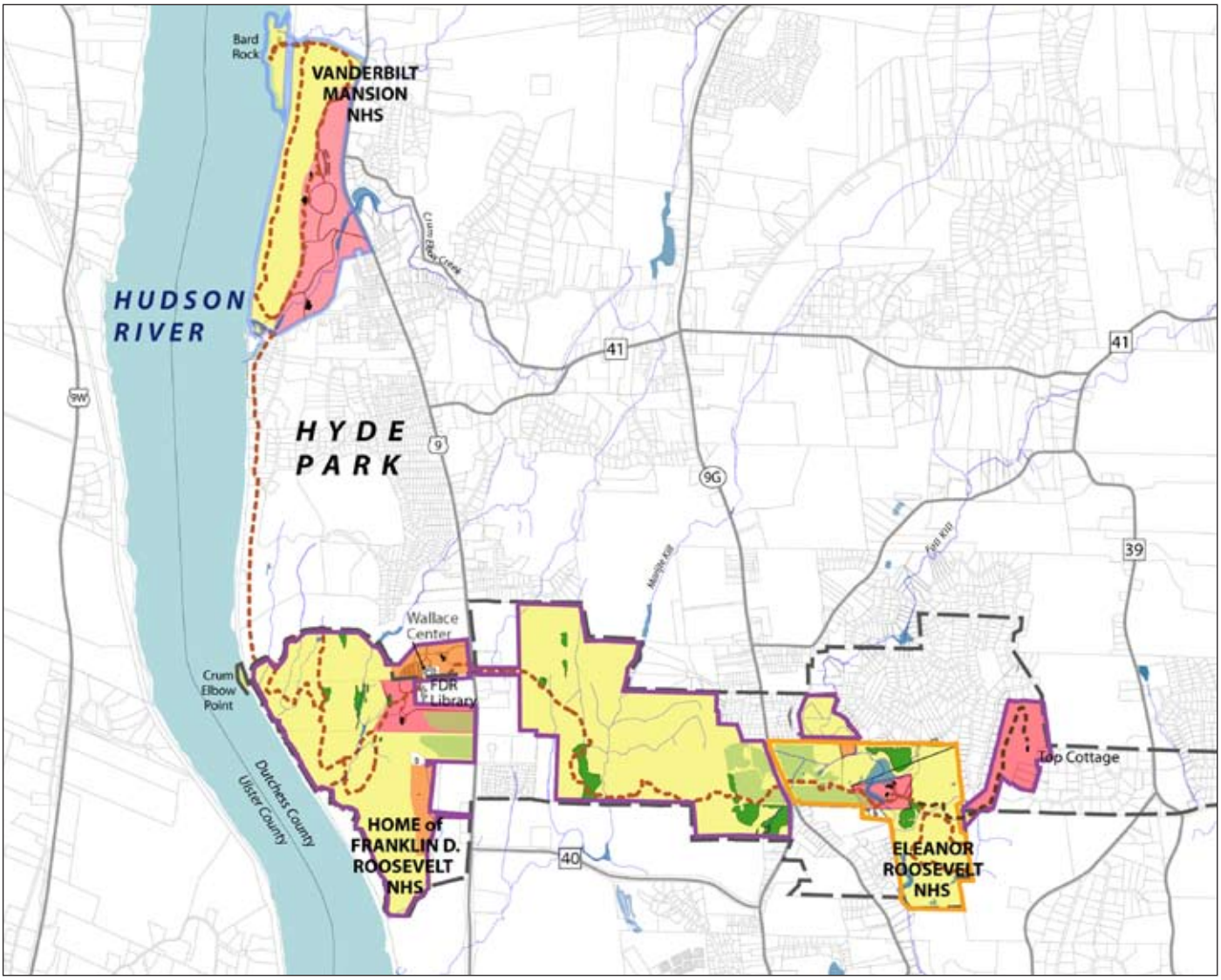
Boundary Adjustment

The plan does not seek a boundary adjustment as part of its overall management approach. It does, however, propose the development of a new maintenance facility. If land selected for the facility is outside of the authorized park boundary, an administrative or legislative boundary change will be required depending upon the size and location of the property.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

The parks' boundaries, or area of NPS acquisition authority, are sufficient to protect fundamental resources and values and adequately provide for visitor services and park operations.

- Relocate the maintenance facilities to a site that has minimum impact on prime visitor and resource areas and meets identified criteria. (See "Park Support Facilities" section.)



Management Zoning

Management Zoning

- Historic Core Zone
- Cultural Landscape Preservation Zone
- Park Support Zone

Legend

- Historic Roosevelt Family Estate (NPS authorized boundary)
- Historic Forest Plantations
- Historic Farm Fields
- Water
- Hyde Park Trail
- Top Cottage Trail
- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

North 0 .25 0.5 Miles

Management Zoning

National Park Service policies for park planning require the identification of management zones that guide park managers on how each part of a park should be managed to achieve desired conditions. Management zoning directs the location and character of development and other management activities within the park. It is used in combination with other policies governing proposed changes to parklands.

As the following map indicates, the planning team identified three management zones for the parklands: Historic Core, Cultural Landscape Preservation, and Park Support. The zones possess different characteristics, based on the resources they encompass, and may need to be adjusted if new information changes the current understanding of the history and use of the property. The zones require varying approaches for resource management and visitor experience. To address carrying capacity, resource and social condition standards and indicators will be identified for each of the zones, and a monitoring plan will be developed. (See "Appendix F: Visitor Experience & Resource Protection – Carrying Capacity.")

The resource conditions and appropriate activities for each of the zones are described below.

Historic Core

This zone embraces areas of the parks that have high concentrations of cultural resources, intensive management requirements, and moderate to high visitor density.

DESCRIPTION

The historic core includes the main residences, domestic and agricultural outbuildings, and their surrounding grounds. The resources within this zone include historic structures, archeological resources, formal gardens, entry drives, gate houses, bridges, and other designed landscape features. At the Home of FDR NHS, this zone includes the FDR Home, gravesite, and dependencies (roughly the area of the original FDR donation of 33 acres), and Top Cottage. At Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, this zone includes Val-Kill and Stone Cottages and their dependencies and makes up approximately 8 acres. This zone corresponds with the approximately 8-acre area that was the subject of a 1926 lease agreement FDR entered into with Eleanor Roosevelt, Marion Dickerman, and Nancy Cook, allowing them to use the property for residential, industrial, or manufacturing purposes for their life term. At Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, this zone includes the Mansion, the Pavilion, gardens, and outbuildings, encompassing the developed areas from the northern entry gate south. The historic core also harbors what are presumed to be the most sensitive archeological areas, as well as visitor facilities that are housed within historic structures.

DESIRED RESOURCE CONDITION

The cultural resources in this zone would be managed for preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive re-use. Changes to the historic scene would be permitted to allow for basic visitor services, safety, and resource protection.

DESIRED VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Visitors would experience the historic quality and character-defining features of the resources. There would be abundant opportunities for learning about the history and significance of the parks.

APPROPRIATE KINDS AND LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT

Development would be permitted in this zone but limited to what is necessary to provide essential visitor services. Such development could include visitor contact facilities, trails, trailheads, parking, and interpretive media. All development must be undertaken in a manner that meets the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and be sensitive to the character and setting of the historic core.

APPROPRIATE KINDS AND LEVELS OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Moderate to intensive management in this zone would be applied to stabilize, preserve, restore, rehabilitate, adaptively re-use, and interpret cultural resources.

APPROPRIATE KINDS AND LEVELS OF VISITOR ACTIVITIES

Visitor activities would include viewing historic structures, artifacts, gardens, and grounds, and participating in interpretive tours, programs, and special events. Visitors to this zone are likely to experience moderate to high visitor density and should expect to encounter groups of other visitors, especially when receiving orientation, taking tours and during special events.

Cultural Landscape Preservation Zone

This zone embraces the majority of the parklands, requires moderate intensity of management, and offers visitors opportunities for self-paced exploration.

DESCRIPTION

Resources found within this zone include scenic views, former agricultural fields, natural woodlands, forest plantations, roads and trails, stone walls, and archeological sites.

DESIRED RESOURCE CONDITION

The resources in this zone would be managed to preserve the character-defining features, physical attributes, biotic systems, and historic land uses that contribute to the historical significance of the parks. Natural resources would be managed to maintain significant cultural landscape features and/or to sustain biological diversity.

DESIRED VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Visitors would experience the historic quality and character-defining features of the cultural resources, as well as streams, native woodlands, and other natural resources. There would be abundant opportunities for learning about the history and significance of the parks, for self-paced,

individual exploration, and for quiet appreciation of the parklands in the areas more remote from the core zones.

APPROPRIATE KINDS AND LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT

Development would be permitted in this zone but limited to what is necessary to provide visitor services. Such development could include interpretive media, parking areas, and other provisions for visitor access, trails, and trail heads. All development must be undertaken in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and be sensitive to the character and setting of the zone.

APPROPRIATE KINDS AND LEVELS OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Management actions, such as mowing and haying fields, agricultural leasing, grazing animals, prescribed fire, forestry management, and invasive species management would be applied in this zone to maintain the historic character and appearance of the cultural resources and to encourage native species and natural diversity.

APPROPRIATE KINDS AND LEVELS OF VISITOR ACTIVITIES

Visitor education would take place in this zone, as would guided and self-guided tours of the landscape and special programs related to historic land uses and activities. Non-motorized recreational activities on designated trails, such as hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing, would be permitted. Visitors are likely to experience low to moderate visitor density and should expect to have periodic encounters with other visitors, especially on Roosevelt Farm Lane and other segments of the Hyde Park Trail.

Park Support Zone

This zone embraces areas of the parks that can accommodate administrative and other park support facilities with minimal impact on the overall character of the property.

DESCRIPTION

The park resources associated with this zone include facilities to support park and park partner administration and operations. The zone also includes contemporary and historic structures, cultural landscapes, and archeological resources. At the Home of FDR NHS, the Park Support Zone encompasses the park headquarters, Bellefield and its outbuildings (some of which are used for maintenance functions until a new facility can be constructed), Wallace Center parking area, the new museum services facility site south of the Red House, and the composting operation. At Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, it encompasses the Caretaker's Cottage site (the location for the new partner administrative facility).

DESIRED RESOURCE CONDITION

Park support facilities are maintained in good condition. Necessary facilities in this zone would be placed as unobtrusively as possible and sited to blend aesthetically with the natural and cultural environment.

DESIRED VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Typically, members of the public would enter the park support areas when they have business with the park or the park partners, or are attending a public event. Public access to the collections for research purposes would be permitted with adherence to NPS policies and guidelines. When entering these areas, visitors might encounter maintenance or administrative buildings, equipment, and machinery in operation.

APPROPRIATE KINDS AND LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT

Development in this zone would be permitted and would include park operations and visitor facilities, roads, and parking. The most intensive new development within the park would be undertaken in this zone. All development must be undertaken in accordance with The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and be sensitive to the character and setting of the zone.

APPROPRIATE KINDS AND LEVELS OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Active management in this zone would accommodate intense use, as well as regular maintenance of both the structural and landscape elements. It would also include staging and preparation for maintenance and resource protection.

APPROPRIATE KINDS AND LEVELS OF VISITOR ACTIVITIES

Visitor activities appropriate within this zone would include parking, conducting business at the park, or attending a public event.

Cost Estimates

The presentation of costs within a general management plan is applied to the types and general intensities of development. The costs are presented as estimates that allow for flexibility in application and are not appropriate for budgeting purposes.

The costs presented have been developed using industry standards to the extent available. Actual costs will be determined at a later date, considering the design of facilities, identification of detailed resource protection needs, and changing visitor expectations. The cost estimates presented represent the total costs of projects. Potential cost-sharing opportunities with partners would reduce the overall costs.

Annual Operating Costs

The estimate for annual operating costs is $6,638,700. Annual operating costs are the total annual costs for the parks including maintenance, utilities, staff salaries and benefits, supplies, and other materials. Cost estimates assume that the plan is fully implemented.

Staffing

The staffing projection is 85 full-time-equivalent positions (FTE), which is 4.5 more FTE than the approved target organization. The total FTE is the number

of person-years required to maintain the assets of the parks at a good level, provide acceptable visitor services, protect resources, and generally support the parks' operations. The FTE number indicates the NPS-funded staff only, not volunteer positions or positions funded by partners. FTE salaries and benefits are included in the annual operating costs.

Total One-time Costs

The estimate for total one-time costs is $20,900,000. This includes one-time facility costs and one-time non-facility costs. The one-time facility costs are estimated at $8,600,000. One-time facility costs include design, construction, rehabilitation, or adaptive re-use of visitor centers, roads, parking areas, administrative facilities, comfort stations, educational facilities, maintenance facilities, museum service facilities, and other visitor facilities. The one-time non-facility costs are estimated at $12,300,000. One-time non-facility costs include actions not related to facilities, such as the treatment of cultural or natural resources, the development of exhibits or visitor materials, and other park activities that would require substantial funding above annual operating costs.

Other Costs

The estimate for other costs is $13,100,000. Other costs are funds for projects that are outside the scope of the plan and are supported by non-NPS funds. This estimate is for the Hudson Valley Welcome Center project, which is a partnership project that is funded from non-NPS sources.

Ideas Considered but Not Advanced

During the course of planning, the team considered several other proposals that, after consideration, proved to be unfeasible or undesirable. The following section summarizes these proposals and the reasons they were not pursued further.

Creating a combined Roosevelt and Vanderbilt National Historical Park

This idea was proposed because it might have reduced administrative redundancies. However, the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt parks are not closely related thematically. Even if the parks were combined legislatively, thematic differences would require separate treatments. In daily operation, funding can be moved between sites, and the staff can share management responsibilities without the parks being combined.

Merging the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites

This could reduce administrative redundancies and reinforce the historic connections between the sites, which shared the same ownership in FDR's lifetime. As with the preceding proposal, the administrative savings would probably be negligible. In fact, a merger would have a negative impact on the parks' ability to compete for funding, and the legislative process to permit a merger could have unforeseen consequences. Plus, the parks differ in their

periods of significance and interpretation. In practice, historic connections between the sites can be brought out through interpretive media.

Acquiring the Hyde Park Mall, removing the mall structures and parking lot, and reclaiming the land as a part of the Roosevelt Family Estate

This acquisition would restore a large portion of the historic James R. Roosevelt property and protect the historic scene of the Home and Library, thus greatly enhancing the park's setting. It is considered unfeasible because property acquisition, tenant relocation, and land reclamation would make the expense enormous. There would be a substantial loss of tax revenue to the Town of Hyde Park.

Acquiring the remaining resources related to the Vanderbilt Farm, upgrading their historic appearance, and opening them to the public for interpretation

This would provide maximum protection to the resources and enable fuller interpretation of the Vanderbilt Estate. After study, the idea was not advanced because the integrity of the farm has been lost, the interiors of structures have been modified, the cost of property acquisition and tenant relocation would be too great, and opening and interpreting the structures to the public on a regular basis would be logistically difficult and very expensive.

Relocating management and administrative offices from Bellefield

If the offices were relocated, the park could lease the structure and decrease its maintenance responsibilities. While this could be a benefit, the proposal is impractical. The development of the Wallace Center requires park managers to be in proximity to the Library within the administrative "campus" at the Home of FDR. No other facility within the Home of FDR NHS is of sufficient size, and the acquisition of a new facility is neither feasible nor desirable. Relocation to the Vanderbilt Coach House, as suggested, would provide sufficient space to consolidate the staff, but the location is too remote from the core of activity around the Wallace Center.

Rebuilding the Bard Rock Boathouse

This proposal would have interpretive benefits in conveying the importance of the river to the Vanderbilts and creating a focal point that would serve as a landmark along the Hudson. While somewhat appealing, these interpretive benefits are of very low priority compared to more pressing needs. The operational requirements of maintaining, staffing, and protecting the boat house would be prohibitive. NPS policy discourages such reconstruction unless there is some overwhelming necessity. In addition, there was concern that a rise in the river level due to climate change could threaten the long-term survival of the structure.

Building a new structure at Bard Rock

This proposal would have provided a structure within which to house new facilities for car-top boat users, such as lockers and kayak racks. It also would

create a focal point that would serve as a landmark along the Hudson. It was determined that, although desirable, the facility would not be essential for car-top boat use. The operational requirements of maintaining, staffing, and protecting the facility would be prohibitive. In addition, there was concern that a rise in the river level due to climate change could threaten the long-term survival of the structure.

Next Steps

The general management plan provides a framework for coordinating and integrating subsequent planning and management decisions affecting Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. All other plans tier off the general management plan. When funds become available to begin designing facilities or undertaking individual actions consistent with the plan, site-specific planning, research, and environmental analysis will take place. Specific actions will be subject to federal and state consultation requirements, and the public will be involved throughout the process. The draft and final environmental impact statements accompanying the general management plans are essentially programmatic statements that present an overview of potential impacts. Later plans that derive from the general management plan would be subject to a more detailed review of environmental impacts.

Approval of the general management plan does not guarantee that funding or staffing for proposed actions will be available. Implementation of the plan will depend upon the availability of funds and may occur many years in the future. Proposed construction projects will have to compete for funds through the NPS priority-setting process and may be subject to phased implementation. Substantial financial contributions from partners and non-federal sources of funds could accelerate implementation of the plan.

Appendices

Appendix A: Record of Decision

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, Hyde Park, New York
Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
Record of Decision

APPROVED:

Dennis R. Reidenbach
Regional Director, Northeast Region
9/20/10

RECOMMENDED:

Sarah Olson
Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites
9/15/10

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Record of Decision

General Management Plan
Environmental Impact Statement

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites
New York

The United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, has prepared this Record of Decision for the *General Management Plan / Final Environmental Statement* for Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. This Record of Decision (ROD) includes: the project background; a statement of the decision made; a description of the alternative selected for implementation; a listing of measures to minimize and/or mitigate environmental harm; a synopsis of other alternatives considered; the basis for the decision; findings on impairment of park resources and values; a description of the environmentally preferred alternative; and a summary of public and agency involvement in the decision-making process.

Project Background

The primary function of a general management plan is to clearly define a park's purpose and management direction over the long term, typically 15 to 20 years into the future. The plan describes the resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained. The clarification of what must be achieved according to law and policy is based on a review of the park's purpose, significance, and mission. A general management plan is a policy-level document that provides a framework for more detailed implementation and technical plans. The National Park Service seeks to have all parks operate under approved general management plans to ensure that park managers carry out as effectively and efficiently as possible the mission of the National Park Service:

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The *General Management Plan* for Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites provides guidance for the three national historic sites in Hyde Park, New York: Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site; Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (also known as Val-Kill); and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The plan was created over several years under the guidance of an interdisciplinary planning team including the

Superintendent, senior park staff, NPS regional office staff, and consultants. During this process, the planning team involved the public, gathered background information, examined park legislation, compared similar sites, consulted with other agencies, partners and resource experts, explored solutions, assessed impacts, and published draft and final plans. At the outset, the planning team recognized that, although a general management plan was needed for each of the three Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, a single unifying plan was not only the most expeditious approach, but was also essential for continued coordinated management.

With public and stakeholder involvement, the planning team developed statements of park purpose and significance, outlined interpretive themes, analyzed fundamental resources and values, identified planning issues, and formed goals for the national historic sites. Based on this foundation, the planning team defined and applied three broad questions, or "decision points" around which the alternatives were structured:

1) What level and extent of resource treatment is most desirable and appropriate to portray the historic conditions and facilitate long-term stewardship?

2) How can the parks best maintain or build visitation and interpret the historic sites to new generations?

3) How can the parks best work with partners to garner resources and enhance capacity for operations?

The planning team developed two "action alternatives" that were evaluated in the Draft and Final EIS, along with the "no-action" alternative. The planning team also developed a set of management objectives that would be pursued under any alternative.

Decision (Selected Action)

The National Park Service (NPS) will implement the agency's preferred alternative, Action Alternative Two, including the elements common to all alternatives, as described and analyzed in the *Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft GMP/EIS)*.

Description of the Selected Action

The alternative selected for implementation, Action Alternative Two, seeks to make the parks relevant to more audiences by encouraging greater civic participation in park activities, while significantly enhancing the historic character of park resources. These efforts are in keeping with the historic residents' use of the land for outdoor enjoyment and resource stewardship. Resource management efforts will focus on the landscape and be aimed at rehabilitating existing features, but will follow contemporary best practices for land management within select areas. Resource management decisions will be guided to a greater extent by programmatic needs, especially interpretation. The reconstruction of missing landscape features will be limited; generally they will be represented by new features of similar massing and

scale, or through interpretive media. Construction of new trail segments to support visitor access will be allowed. The main historic residences—FDR Home, Val-Kill Cottage, and Vanderbilt Mansion—will continue to be presented as fully furnished historic house museums, with select historic outbuildings adaptively re-used for park or partner programs.

Efforts to build and maintain visitation will focus on providing a wide range of activities, including recreational activities, special events, and programs to reach varied audiences. While interpretation will be place-based, it will more deliberately use resources to explore issues of contemporary relevance. A learning center will be established to expand the scope and magnitude of the educational programs. Creation and presentation of these new programs will depend largely on partners, with some NPS employees functioning more as coordinators and facilitators than at present.

The selected alternative calls for a significant expansion of partnership activities in the operation of the sites and opens up greater potential for new approaches to generating revenue to help sustain and improve operations.

KEY COMPONENTS

Rehabilitates cultural resources to enhance the historic character of estates and continues historic land uses with allowances for contemporary practices:

- Forests will be actively managed; treatments will range from managing for historic character to using latest forestry practices
- Historic fields will be reclaimed and farming reintroduced as feasible, with contemporary practices allowed
- Designed landscapes will be rehabilitated and missing features indicated via media or elements of similar massing/scale, for example, a community "Victory Garden" could be developed on the FDR Home Garden site
- The Hudson River view will be expanded at the Home of FDR, with action taken to preserve the view at Vanderbilt

With partners, a wider choice of visitor experiences will be offered to reach more audiences:

- Forestry and farming demonstrations and special events will be developed
- A place-based learning center, serving preschoolers to retirees, will be established
- Changing exhibits/forums that explore the contemporary relevance of site stories will be pursued
- Compatible recreational use of trails will be promoted with multi-use trail links among the sites
- River connections will be improved at Roosevelt Cove and Bard Rock

Significantly increased partner participation will help maintain resources, run programs, and generate revenue:

- Partners will be sought for a compatible public use of the Vanderbilt Coach House to offset maintenance costs
- Partnerships will be developed to operate the learning center and conduct demonstrations, special programs, and recreation-based tours
- New sources of revenue will be evaluated and implemented with partner participation, such as the development and sale of branded products

The following objectives, which were common to all alternatives evaluated in the *Draft GMP/EIS*, are incorporated into the selected alternative:

- Continue to make preservation and maintenance of park resources a management priority
- Strive to preserve the collections in good condition to support programs and interpretive themes, and acquire original and associated collections when available
- Preserve and enhance, when possible, important natural communities, such as freshwater tidal marsh, and mature forest stands
- Relocate maintenance facilities from historic buildings to a new structure
- Retain the Bellefield property as park headquarters but update it for efficiency
- Take steps to achieve energy efficiency, establish sustainable practices, and promote car-free access to the parks
- Continue to work with partners to promote stewardship and work to protect the sweeping views of the Hudson Valley, the parks' historic setting, and re-establish the rural character of the Route 9 and Route 9G corridors to the extent practicable

Mitigating Measures/Monitoring

During the preparation of the plan, the planning team identified measures to minimize and/or mitigate negative impacts of the management objectives and potential actions. The mitigation measures to be implemented as part of the selected alternative are described below. Due to the programmatic nature of the plan, additional mitigation strategies may be required as specific actions are proposed under the selected alternative and will be identified as part of planning for these future actions in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and other applicable laws and policies prior to implementation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Park managers will undertake several development projects to implement the selected alternative. Included among them are: upgrading the Bellefield property; continuing to make basic repairs and replacements to utility infrastructure; selecting a site and developing a maintenance facility; rehabilitating historic

views, farm fields, and designed landscapes, and managing forest plantations and natural woodlands; and extending the trail system. Archeological reviews, surveying, careful planning, consultation, and monitoring will be employed to mitigate impacts to archeological resources associated with these activities. Existing archeological studies will serve as guiding documents indicating known and potential archeologically sensitive areas. Depending upon the location of the projects, new research may be needed to evaluate the known and potential archeological resources. Archeological sites will be avoided as possible and archeological resource data collected prior to construction. During construction, archeological monitoring will ensure that proper procedures are followed for minimal disturbance, such as appropriate construction staging areas. If any unknown significant resources are uncovered during ground-disturbing activity, procedures in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA will be initiated.

Park managers will repair, rehabilitate, and adaptively re-use certain historic buildings to implement the selected alternative. Appropriate planning will be undertaken to mitigate and minimize potential loss of historic fabric associated with modifications to the historic interiors. All work will follow the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* and NPS management policies. Treatment plans developed in consultation with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (NYS SHPO) will ensure good decision making regarding the preservation of remaining features and the rehabilitation of others.

NATURAL RESOURCES

As described above, park managers will undertake several development projects to implement the selected alternative. Included among them are: selecting a site and developing a maintenance facility; rehabilitating historic views, farm fields, and designed landscapes, and managing forest plantations and natural woodlands; and extending the trail system. A site for the maintenance facility will be chosen, in part, to have minimal effect on natural resources, for example to minimize impacts on wetlands, floodplain, threatened and endangered species, soils and topography. Best practices, such as restricting construction activity to the smallest area possible, using existing alignments, and minimizing grade changes, will mitigate potential impacts to natural resources. Mitigation measures will be taken to control soil loss and erosion, to protect vernal pools, seeps, and wetlands, and to control invasive species potentially introduced by the clearing of understory, removal of trees, and other actions that would result in a loss of habitat for certain species. When rehabilitating designed landscapes, mitigation measures, such as using plants that are less attractive to wildlife and installing fencing, will minimize potential impacts associated with introducing new food sources to opportunistic wildlife.

Park managers will introduce more diverse and innovative programs and actively promote recreational use of the park trails. Clear signage and formalized pathways and trails will be used to mitigate potential impacts associated with trampling of vegetation, spread of invasive species, and disturbance and dispersal of wildlife.

Other Alternatives Considered

No-Action Alternative (Continuation of Current Practices)

The No-Action Alternative represents a continuation of current management practices at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. It allows projects to be completed for which funding has been secured or environmental compliance has been fulfilled, but does not allow for major changes in direction.

Under the No-Action Alternative, park managers would continue to work to improve the condition of the cultural resources within available funding. The configuration and management of the cultural landscape would remain largely as is. Existing views of the Hudson River would be maintained as at present, though this means they will become increasingly obstructed by tree growth. Forest plantations would be inventoried and subject to continued research, but no management actions would be taken to keep them from being lost to natural succession. No additional management of natural woodlands would be undertaken. Existing gardens, orchards, and other designed landscapes would appear largely as they do now, with no efforts made to restore, replace, or interpret missing features. No attempt would be made to reclaim former farm fields now obscured by tree growth.

Interpretation would continue to be centered on guided tours of the historic residences, with little emphasis placed on other estate buildings and cultural landscapes. Outdoor and recreation-based interpretive programs would continue to receive little emphasis. Educational programs would continue to function at current capacity, with the overwhelming majority of programs offered at the Home of FDR and with house tours serving as the core of the programming. Occasional outreach programs would continue.

Existing partnerships would be maintained and volunteer programs would continue, with support provided for special projects on an occasional basis. Coordination of educational and interpretive programming with partners would continue on a limited basis.

Action Alternative One

Action Alternative One perpetuates the general philosophy and direction of the existing management plans but updates them to address changed conditions, additions to the parks, and increased knowledge of park resources gathered in the intervening years. Proposed resource management efforts would focus on the landscape and be aimed at restoring the historic appearance of resources to the fullest extent possible within select areas. The reconstruction of landscape features lost since the historic period would be encouraged in core areas to complete the historic scene. Modern intrusions would be minimized, and this alternative would limit the addition of features or facilities that were not present during the periods of historic significance. The main residences would continue to be presented as historic house museums, with more historic outbuildings opened for interpretation than at present.

Efforts to maintain and build visitation would center on expanding the tour options available to visitors and strengthening educational

programming. Interpretation would focus on describing historic conditions and encouraging visitors to explore not only the historic residences, but the entirety of the estates through a range of guided and self-guided tours. Educational programming would be strengthened and concentrate on curriculum-based, after-school, and other types of children's programs.

This alternative would rely on enhanced partnerships to accomplish its vision. Coordination with partners would focus on increasing access to and awareness of the sites, enhancing interpretive programming, and assisting with resource preservation efforts.

Basis for Decision

The following section documents the rationale for the decision to select Action Alternative Two for implementation. In arriving at this decision, the planning team evaluated how well each of the alternatives met the parks' goals and compared the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives on cultural and natural resources, the visitor experience, park operations, and the socioeconomic environment. Based on this evaluation, the NPS determined that Action Alternative Two conveys the greatest number of beneficial results in comparison with the other alternatives. A summary of the rationale for selection is provided below. The narrative is presented in three categories that correspond to overarching goals of the NPS: 1) to preserve park resources; 2) to provide for visitor use and enjoyment, and 3) to ensure organizational effectiveness. (See Part Four of the *Draft GMP/EIS* for a full description of the environmental impact analysis.)

The NPS determined that the selected action best fulfils the goals outlined for the parks. In regard to preserving park resources, the NPS concluded that Action Alternative Two presents an approach to landscape management that is more practical and sustainable over the long term, and thus more likely to succeed in preserving resources than the other two alternatives. In terms of providing for public use, Action Alternative Two offers a wider variety of visitor experiences and places greater emphasis on the relevance of park themes to contemporary concerns, and thus may more effectively communicate park themes to a greater diversity of audiences than the other alternatives. In regard to ensuring operational effectiveness, Action Alternative Two opens up more opportunities for partner involvement in park operations, and may therefore better motivate new park stewards to advocate for the long-term preservation of the parks and related resources, and may offer the greatest potential to reduce the operational burden on park staff. These themes are also reflected in the comparison of environmental impacts outlined below.

The NPS determined that, based on a comparison of environmental impacts, the selected action conveys the greatest number of beneficial results than the other alternatives. The selected alternative would have an overall positive impact on cultural resources. Rehabilitating cultural landscapes and re-establishing forestry and farming practices will bring the cultural landscapes closer to historic conditions and will do so in ways

that are more cost-effective to maintain. By allowing greater flexibility in resource treatment and relying more on perpetuating historic land uses, as opposed to strictly seeking to re-establish historic appearance, Action Alternative Two presents an approach to landscape management that is more practical, cost-effective, and sustainable over the long term. Repair, rehabilitation, and adaptive re-use of certain historic structures will reduce the deferred maintenance backlog on those structures. Actively managing some of the forest plantations and natural woodlands in accordance with modern practices will result in more diverse and healthier systems. Introducing more diverse programs, enhancing educational programming, and increasing emphasis on the contemporary relevance of the parks' stories will appeal to new audiences and broaden the base of support for cultural and natural resource stewardship. Augmenting the staff with volunteer docents and extensive partner support will allow more labor and funding from new sources to be put toward cultural and natural resource stewardship.

The selected alternative will have an overall positive impact on visitor use and experience. By encouraging more diverse interpretation, Action Alternative Two is the most likely to halt or even reverse the long-term decline in visitation. Introducing more diverse programs, enhancing educational programming, and increasing emphasis on the contemporary relevance of the parks' stories will provide a fuller depiction of important themes, offer a more engaging and participatory experience, and allow a greater diversity of ways to experience and learn about the parks. Making the parks more lively places, promoting compatible recreational use, and interpreting the parks to demonstrate their relevance to contemporary concerns should increase their qualitative benefits. Similarly, the greater scope of education under Action Alternative Two may more effectively renew interest in the parks and motivate new park stewards. Rehabilitating cultural landscapes, re-establishing forestry and farming practices, and repairing, rehabilitating, and adaptively re-using historic structures will increase visitors' understanding of the historic condition and functions of the properties. Presenting themes in a contemporary context will offer more opportunities for public participation and understanding of the parks' resources. The emphasis on partnerships and innovative programs should increase community involvement in the parks, which will support both preservation and a compatible diversity of uses. Action Alternative Two echoes to a greater degree than the other alternatives, the Roosevelts' ideals of active participation in government and civic life.

The selected alternative will have an overall positive impact on the parks' operational effectiveness. The emphasis on partnerships and new sources of revenue in Action Alternative Two will free park employees and funding to focus on management to a greater degree than the other alternatives. The integration of partners in many levels will facilitate resource stewardship. For example, re-establishment of forestry and farming practices and adaptive re-use of historic structures through leases, cooperative

agreements, or other mechanisms will reduce the operational burden on park staff and ultimately contribute to the long-term stewardship of park resources. Working with partners will establish long-term relation-ships that will enable the park to provide substantially more services without commensurate increases in NPS staff. Staff time, however, will be required for increased partner coordination and administration, and promoting recreational use of the trails will increase the maintenance and law enforcement workload. Seeking new sources and augmenting existing sources of revenue will increase the capacity to maintain resources and operate the park. Increased partner-based activities will increase maintenance responsibilities in the short-term, though it is expected that the costs associated with these increases would be covered by the gains in revenue generated over the long term.

Findings on Impairment of Park Resources and Values

By enacting the NPS Organic Act of 1916 (Organic Act), Congress directed the U.S. Department of Interior and the NPS to manage units "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such a means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations" (16 USC § 1). Congress reiterated this mandate in the Redwood National Park Expansion Act of 1978 by stating that NPS must conduct its actions in a manner that will ensure no "derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress" (16 USC 1a-1).

The NPS has determined that the selected alternative will not result in impairment of any park resources or values. A final determination on impairment for the selected alternative is attached to this Record of Decision.

Consistency with NEPA Section 101(B) and the Environmentally Preferred Alternative

The Environmentally Preferred Alternative is defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) as "the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed in the National Environmental Policy Act [Section 101(b)]." CEQ further clarified the identification of the Environmentally Preferred Alternative in their *NEPA's 40 Most-Asked Questions* as "the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and that best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources (Q6a)." Following is the analysis of how well each of the alternatives evaluated in the Draft/Final Plan/EIS meet each of the NEPA Section 101(b) criteria, followed by the identification of the Environmentally Preferred Alternative according to CEQ's Q6a definition.

The goal of the NPS is to serve as a trustee for the environment for future generations (Criterion #1). This fundamental requirement to preserve significant resources is contained in the agency's 1916 Organic Act. The

No-Action Alternative would seek to maintain resources at a basic level and thereby fulfill the NPS obligation to preserve the resources with which it has been entrusted. However, the experience of the last several decades, characterized by appropriations that have decreased in relative value combined with numerous increased demands on the park staff, have resulted in a growing maintenance backlog and an observable deterioration in some primary resources. Filling vacancies in critical staff positions, as outlined in the No-Action Alternative, would provide some needed assistance in addressing the backlog, but would not be sufficient to remedy the diminished resource condition and provide a satisfactory visitor experience.

Action Alternative One, which proposes an expansion in staff and a larger role for volunteers, would enable the park to better fulfill its responsibilities as trustee of cultural and natural resources. Action Alternative Two would have a more pronounced beneficial impact, because it proposes greater reliance on partnerships and new sources of revenue, which would free park employees and funding to focus on management to a greater degree than Action Alternative One. As the experience of the last several decades indicates, reliance on a high level of sustained government support over the long term for operations and services, as is the case with Action Alternative One, even augmented with strong volunteer support, may not be as sustainable a management approach as it once was; whereas the integration of partners in many levels of operations and services, as is the case with Action Alternative Two, facilitates better resource preservation and stewardship over the long term. (Criteria #1 and #4)

All three alternatives seek to maintain the primary historic structures and collections in good condition and to present the historic homes as fully furnished interiors that reflect their period of significance. Differences in treatment among the alternatives are evident primarily in the cultural landscape. In continuing current management practices, the No-Action Alternative would continue to permit field encroachment, naturalization of forest plantations, obstruction of views, and other types of unfavorable cultural landscape conditions. Action Alternative One, which seeks to present a more literal re-creation of the historic scene, seems at first to offer the best prospects for preserving cultural resources. It cannot be assured, however, that the NPS will be able to muster the resources needed to essentially freeze the parks at a fixed stage of development and maintain them in that state indefinitely. Action Alternative Two, by allowing greater flexibility, will actually provide better prospects of perpetuating the character-defining aspects of the parks' cultural resources and making them meaningful to the public. In relying more on re-establishing historic land uses, as opposed to strictly re-establishing historic appearance, it presents an approach to landscape management that is more practical, cost-effective, and sustainable over the long term, and thus more likely to succeed in preserving resources. (Criteria #1 and #4)

By encouraging flexibility of treatment and more diverse and imaginative interpretation, Action Alternative Two has the greatest likelihood of

achieving healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings. This alternative, by improving the presentation of cultural resources, offers the best possibility of halting or even reversing the long-term decline in visitation at the Roosevelt sites. Making the parks more lively places and interpreting them in ways that demonstrate their relevance to contemporary concerns should increase the qualitative benefits of the parks, as well as stimulating greater and more varied use by the American public. Similarly, the greater scope of education under Action Alternative Two may more effectively renew interest in the parks and motivate new park stewards. (Criteria #2 and #3)

With respect to natural resources, the No-Action Alternative would convey certain minor benefits, as continued lack of management of the parks' forested areas would allow some greater diversity of habitats and species than in Action Alternative One. This limited improvement would be greatly outweighed by the overall lack of interpretive attention to these resources, and resulting lack of visitor understanding of their importance. Action Alternative One, by increasing certain uses and managing forest plantations, natural woodlands, and agricultural fields as more of a mono-culture, reduces diversity and habitat value in some areas. These impacts would be balanced by the aspects of the alternative that would yield improved interpretation and visitor understanding. Under Action Alternative Two, the minor negative impacts would be further decreased by greater flexibility and the use of contemporary farming and forestry practices, which tend to better support natural resource values. In addition, natural resources would benefit from the various measures to introduce new stewards and find new sources of support for the preservation effort. (Criteria #3 and #4)

Action Alternative Two supports greater recreational use of the trails (compatible with the resources that make them nationally significant), and thus provides a wider range of choice for public enjoyment of the parks. The expanded trail use envisioned under Action Alternative Two, and to a lesser extent under Action Alternative One, may actually generate a collateral benefit toward wildlife, vegetation, and soils, as a greater public and staff presence would tend to curtail illegal all-terrain-vehicle use in outlying areas. The No-Action Alternative would do little to reduce such continuing resource damage. (Criteria #3 and #4)

With its stress on stimulating interest in the parks, which should translate into more stabilized visitation, Action Alternative Two is expected to have a modest, but greater beneficial socioeconomic impact than the other alternatives. At the same time, its emphasis on partnerships and innovative programs should increase community involvement in the parks, which will support both preservation and a compatible diversity of uses. Moreover, it is consistent with the Roosevelts' ideals of active participation in government and civic life. (Criterion #4)

Criteria 5 and 6 are not substantially engaged or addressed differently by the actions proposed under any of the alternatives. Regarding Criterion 5,

all alternatives strive to achieve a balance between population and resource use (i.e. carrying capacity) at the parks as described in Appendix E in the *Draft GMP/EIS*. Regarding Criterion 6, all alternatives seek to enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources by reducing the parks' carbon footprint and enhancing sustainability as described on pages 57 and 89 in the *Draft GMP/EIS*.

After evaluating the potential impacts of the alternatives on cultural and natural resources, the visitor experience, park operations, and the socioeconomic environment, the NPS has determined that Action Alternative Two is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative.

Public and Agency Involvement

The planning process for the GMP/EIS was conducted with extensive public and agency involvement that included meetings, workshops, briefings, wide distribution of planning newsletters, email announcements, and a formal public comment process. These activities are briefly summarized below and a detailed discussion is presented in Part Five of the *Draft GMP/EIS*.

Scoping

During 2005 and 2006, the planning team held meetings with key stakeholders, agencies, resource experts, and members of the public. Following this contact, the NPS distributed its first planning newsletter in October 2006, which presented the planning process, draft statements of purpose and significance, preliminary planning issues, and included a mail-back card inviting comment. In October 2007, the NPS distributed a second newsletter or "Progress Report" describing three preliminary alternatives, which also included a mail-back card inviting comment. Over the course of the next two years, the planning team continued to brief and receive input from stakeholders.

Public Comment

In December 2009, the NPS distributed the *Draft GMP/EIS*. The draft document was available for public and agency review from December 24, 2009 through February 28, 2010. More than 100 copies of the document were sent to individuals, agencies, and organizations, and several were made available at the parks' visitor centers and the local library. The draft document was posted on the National Park Service (NPS) Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website (http://parkplanning.nps.gov/rova). In addition, some 3,400 printed copies of a 16-page summary of the draft plan were distributed to the public. Public open houses were held on January 28 and 29, 2010. Press releases, email notifications, and messages on the parks' nps.gov homepages were used to announce the availability of the document, as well as the public open house dates and times.

The NPS received 76 pieces of correspondence in the form of letters (seven), emails (three), comment sheets from the public open houses (six), and electronic comments submitted through the NPS PEPC website (60).

From the 76 pieces of correspondence, the planning team identified nearly 185 comments, or statements about a particular issue. The team identified three comments as being substantive, with the overwhelming majority being non-substantive.

All commenters who identified a preference identified Action Alternative Two (the Preferred Alternative) as their preferred option. Many commenters stated support for particular components of the Preferred Alternative. There were no statements of support or preference for Action Alternative One or the No-Action Alternative. Recreational use of the trail system, specifically bicycle use, received the most attention of any issue. Other topics on which multiple comments were received included: coordination with trail volunteers, support for regional trail networks, support for proposed cultural landscapes management objectives, and support for enhanced educational programs.

Comments received on the *Draft GMP/EIS* required only minor changes and editorial corrections; therefore, an *Abbreviated Final GMP/EIS* was used to respond to and incorporate the comments received during the public and agency review. No changes were made to the alternatives or to the impact analysis presented in the *Draft GMP/EIS* as a result of public comments.

Tribal Coordination

At the outset of the planning process, the NPS initiated consultation via letter with Native American tribes historically associated with this area of the Hudson Valley. The tribes contacted were the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, the Delaware Nation, and the Delaware Tribe of Indians. Planning newsletters were sent to the tribes in October 2006 and October 2007. Copies of the *Draft GMP/EIS* and the *Abbreviated Final GMP/EIS* were provided to each tribe. The tribes provided no comment on either document. Consultation and coordination with the tribes will continue through implementation of the plan, as needed. This effort will also be continued through the Section 106 compliance process as specific actions are taken under the selected alternative.

Section 106 Consultation

Consultation with the New York State Historic Preservation Office (NY SHPO) was initiated in December 2005 and continued in October 2006 and October 2007 via newsletter mailings. Periodic updates on the plan were provided at the parks' regular biannual consultation meetings. In February 2010, the NY SHPO submitted comments on the *Draft GMP/EIS* indicating that the agency finds, "the preferred alternatives to various project initiatives to be both reasonable and appropriate. Although we cannot offer our formal opinion under Section 106 for projects until we have reviewed the specific details, these reviews have not been an issue between our offices."

Section 7 Consultation

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act was initiated in December 2008 with regard to the status of federally-listed threatened and endangered species in the area. The USFWS response indicated that, due to increasing workload and reduction of staff, the USFWS now directs species list inquires to its website (http://www.fws.gov). According to USFWS website, there are seven Federally listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species that are known or are likely to occur in Dutchess County. Within the project area, however, except for occasional potential transient individual animals, no Federally listed or proposed endangered species are known to be present according to the official National Park species list. The NPS found that there was no effect on any Federally listed species. The park will continue to consult with the USFWS, as needed, in accordance with Section 7 as specific actions are designed and implemented under the selected alternative.

New York State Species of Special Concern

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) website and New York Natural Heritage Program data, the project area contains rare plants and animals and significant natural communities. The NPS will continue to consult with the NYS DEC as specific actions are designed and implemented under the selected alternative.

Coastal Management Policy Consistency

In March 2010, the Department of the Interior prepared a consistency determination in accordance with 15 CFR Part 930 Subpart C. The Department of the Interior determined that the plan and the means for its implementation would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the New York Coastal Management Plan. The consistency determination was submitted to the New York Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources. In April 2010, the New York Department of State concurred with the determination via letter. The coastal consistency determination and the New York State letter of concurrence were appended to the *Final GMP/EIS*.

Conclusion

The above factors and considerations warrant implementing the Preferred Alternative, Action Alternative Two, including the elements common to all alternatives, as described and analyzed in the *Draft* and *Abbreviated Final GMP/EIS* for Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites and this Record of Decision. The alternative selected for implementation will not impair park resources or values and will allow the NPS to preserve park resources and provide for their enjoyment by future generations.

Attachment A
Final Impairment Determination for the Selected Alternative
Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites General Management Plan/EIS

The Prohibition on Impairment of Park Resources and Values

NPS *Management Policies 2006,* Section 1.4.4, explains the prohibition on impairment of park resources and values:

While Congress has given the Service the management discretion to allow impacts within parks, that discretion is limited by the statutory requirement (generally enforceable by the federal courts) that the Park Service must leave park resources and values unimpaired unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise. This, the cornerstone of the Organic Act, establishes the primary responsibility of the National Park Service. It ensures that park resources and values will continue to exist in a condition that will allow the American people to have present and future opportunities for enjoyment of them.

What is Impairment?

NPS *Management Policies 2006,* Section 1.4.5, *What Constitutes Impairment of Park Resources and Values,* and Section 1.4.6, *What Constitutes Park Resources and Values,* provide an explanation of impairment.

Impairment is an impact that, in the professional judgment of the responsible National Park Service manager, would harm the integrity of park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values.

The NPS has discretion to allow impacts on Park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a Park (NPS 2006 sec. 1.4.3). However, the NPS cannot allow an adverse impact that would constitute impairment of the affected resources and values (NPS 2006 sec 1.4.3).

Section 1.4.5 of *Management Policies 2006* states:

An impact to any park resource or value may, but does not necessarily, constitute impairment. An impact would be more likely to constitute impairment to the extent that it affects a resource or value whose conservation is:

- **Necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park**
- **Key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park, or**
- **Identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents as being of significance.**

An impact would be less likely to constitute an impairment if it is an unavoidable result of an action necessary to preserve or restore the integrity of park resources or values and it cannot be further mitigated.

Per Section 1.4.6 of *Management Policies 2006,* park resources and values that may be impaired include:

- the park's scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife, and the processes and condition that sustain them, including, to the extent present in the park: the ecological, biological, and physical processes that created the park and continue to act upon it; scenic features; natural visibility, both in daytime and at night; natural landscapes; natural soundscapes an smells; water and air resources; soils; geological resources; paleontological resources; archeological resources; cultural landscapes; ethnographic resources; historic and prehistoric sites, structure, and objects; museum collections; and native plants and animals;
- appropriate opportunities to experience enjoyment of the above resources, to the extent that can be done without impairing them;
- the park's role in contributing to the national dignity, the high public value and integrity, and the superlative environmental quality of the national park system, and the benefit and inspiration provided to the American people by the national park system; and
- any additional attributes encompassed by the specific values and purposes for which the park was established.

Impairment may result from NPS activities in managing the park, visitor activities, or activities undertaken by concessionaires, contractors, and others operating in the park. Impairment may also result from sources or activities outside the park, but this would not be a violation of the Organic Act unless the NPS was in some way responsible for the action.

How is an Impairment Determination Made?

Section 1.4.7 of *Management Policies 2006 states,* "[i]n making a determination of whether there would be an impairment, an NPS decision make must use his or her professional judgment. This means that the decision-maker must consider any environmental assessments or environmental impact statements required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA); consultations required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); relevant scientific and scholarly studies; advice or insights offered by subject matter experts and others who have relevant knowledge or experience; and the results of civic engagement and public involvement activities relating to the decision.

Management Policies 2006 further define "professional judgment" as "a decision or opinion that is shaped by study and analysis and full consideration of all the relevant facts, and that takes into account the decision-maker's education, training, and experience; advice or insights offered by subject matter experts and others who have relevant knowledge and experience; good science and scholarship; and, whenever appropriate, the results of civic engagement and public involvement activities relation to the decision."

Impairment Determination for the Selected Alternative

This determination on impairment has been prepared for the alternative selected for implementation as the approved General Management Plan for Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, as described in this Record of

Decision. An impairment determination is made for all resource impact topics analyzed for the selected alternative in the *Draft GMP/EIS and Abbreviated Final GMP/EIS*. An impairment determination is not made for visitor use and experience, park operations and facilities, or the socio-economic environment because impairment findings relate back to park resources and values, and these impact areas are not generally considered to be park resources or values according to the Organic Act, and cannot be impaired in the same way that an action can impair park resources and values.

Based on the environmental impact analysis for cultural resources, consisting of cultural landscapes, historic buildings and structures, collections and archives, and archeological resources, the NPS determined that there are no identified permanent major negative impacts on a resource or value whose conservation (1) would be necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, (2) is key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities to enjoy it, or (3) has been identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents. Thus, implementing the selected action will not constitute an impairment of cultural resources.

Based on the environmental impact analysis for natural resources, consisting of wildlife, vegetation, wetlands, soils, and topography, the NPS determined that there are no identified permanent major negative impacts on a resource or value whose conservation (1) would be necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, (2) is key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities to enjoy it, or (3) has been identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents. Thus, implementing the selected action will not constitute an impairment of natural resources.

Appendix B: Legislation

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION (7/18/39) —

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY &

HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

[CHAPTER 324]

JOINT RESOLUTION

July 18, 1939
[S. J. Res. 118]
[Pub. Res., No. 30]

To provide for the establishment and maintenance of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, and for other purposes.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—DEFINITIONS

Terms defined.

SECTION 1. As used in this joint resolution—

"Donor."

(a) The term "donor" means Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"Historical material."

(b) The term "historical material" includes books, correspondence, papers, pamphlets, works of art, models, pictures, photographs, plats, maps, and other similar material.

"Board."

(c) The term "Board" means the Trustees of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

TITLE II—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

Archivist authorized to accept site for library from donor.

SEC. 201. The Archivist of the United States is authorized to accept for and in the name of the United States from the donor, or from such person or persons as shall be empowered to act for the donor, title to a tract of land consisting of an area of twelve acres, more or less, of the Hyde Park estate of the donor and his family, located on the New York-Albany Post Road, in the town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, State of New York; such area to be selected and carved out of the said estate by the donor and to be utilized as a site for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library provided for in this title.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Inc., construction of buildings, landscaping, etc., authorized.

SEC. 202. The Archivist is authorized to permit the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Incorporated, a New York corporation organized for that purpose, to construct on the area referred to in section 201 of this title a building, or buildings, to be designated as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, and to landscape the grounds within the said area. Such project shall be carried out in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Archivist. The Federal Works Administration is authorized to permit the facilities and personnel of the Public Building Administration to be utilized in the preparation of plans for and in the construction and equipping of the project: *Provided*, That the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Incorporated, shall enter into an arrangement satisfactory to the Secretary of the Treasury to reimburse the said Public Building Administration for the costs and expenses incurred for such purposes, as determined by the Federal Works Administration.

Assistance by Public Building Administration.

Proviso.
Reimbursement.

Acceptance of project, upon completion, as a gift from donor.

SEC. 203. Upon the completion of the project authorized in section 202 of this title, the Archivist shall accept for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, as a gift from the donor, such collection of historical material as shall be donated by the donor. The Archivist may also acquire for the said Library from other sources, by gift, purchase, or loan, historical books related to and other historical material contemporary with and related to the historical material acquired from the donor. The historical material acquired under this section shall be permanently housed in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library: *Provided*, That the Archivist may temporarily remove any of such material from the said Library when he deems it to be necessary: *And provided further*, That the Archivist may dispose of any duplicate printed material in the said Library by sale or exchange, and, with the approval of the National Archives Council, may dispose of by sale, exchange, or otherwise any material in the said Library which appears to have no permanent value or historical interest. The proceeds of any sale made under this section shall be paid into the special account provided for in subsection (d) of section 205 of this title, to be held, administered, and expended in accordance with the provisions of that subsection.

Acquisition of similar related material from other sources.

Provisos.
Temporary removal of material.

Disposal of duplicate, etc., printed material.

Proceeds from sales to be paid into special account.

Funds pledged for upkeep, etc.

SEC. 204. The faith of the United States is pledged that, upon the construction of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and the acquisition from the donor of the collection of historical material in accordance with the terms of this title, the United States will provide such funds as may be necessary for the upkeep of the said Library and the administrative expenses and costs of operation thereof, including the preservation and care of historical material acquired under this title, so that the said Library shall be at all times properly maintained.

Board established; membership; tenure, vacancies; not deemed U. S. officers.

SEC. 205. (a) A Board to be known as the Trustees of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library is hereby established. The Archivist and the Secretary of the Treasury shall be ex officio members, and the Archivist shall be chairman of the Board. There shall also be five members of the Board appointed by the President for life, but the President may remove any such member for cause. Vacancies on the

Board shall be filled by the President. Membership on the Board shall not be deemed to be an office within the meaning of the Constitution and statutes of the United States.

Compensation restriction; expense allowance.

(b) No compensation shall be paid to the members of the Board for their services as such members, but they shall be allowed their necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties under this title. The certificate of the chairman of the Board shall be sufficient evidence that the expenses are properly allowable.

Acceptance and administration of gifts as trust funds; investment.

(c) The Board is hereby authorized to accept and receive gifts and bequests of personal property and to hold and administer the same as trust funds for the benefit of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. The moneys or securities composing trust funds given or bequeathed to the Board shall be receipted for by the Secretary of the Treasury who shall invest, reinvest, and retain investments as the Board may from time to time determine: *Provided, however*, That the Board is not authorized to engage in any business nor to exercise any voting privilege which may be incidental to securities in such trust funds, nor shall the Secretary of the Treasury make any investments for the account of the Board which could not lawfully be made by a trust company in the District of Columbia, except that he may make any investment directly authorized by the instrument of gift under which the funds to be invested are derived, and may retain any investments accepted by the Board.

Proviso. Restriction.

Deposit and disbursement of income from trust funds.

(d) The income from any trust funds held by the Board, as and when collected, shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the United States who shall enter it in a special account to the credit of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and subject to disbursement by the Archivist, except where otherwise restricted by the instrument of gift, in the purchase of equipment for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library; in the preparation and publication of guides, inventories, calendars, and textual reproduction of material in the said Library; and in the purchase, under section 203 of this title, of historical material for the said Library. The Archivist may make sales of any publications authorized by this section at a price which will cover their cost and 10 per centum added, and all moneys received from such sales shall be paid into, administered, and expended as a part of the special account herein provided for.

Use of, in publication of guides, textual reproduction of Library material, etc.

Sales of publications; use of receipts.

Use of principal of any gift or bequest for designated purposes.

(e) Unless otherwise restricted by the instrument of gift, the Board, by resolution duly adopted, may authorize the Archivist to use the principal of any gift or bequest made to it for any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (d) hereof.

Powers of Board as trustee.

(f) The Board shall have all the usual powers of a trustee in respect to all funds administered by it, but the members of the Board shall not be personally liable, except for misfeasance. In the administration of such trust funds the actions of the Board, including any payments made or authorized to be made by it from such funds, shall not be subject to review or attack except in an action brought in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, which is hereby given jurisdiction of such suits, for the purpose of enforcing the provision of any trust accepted by the Board.

Custody and control of buildings and grounds.

SEC. 206. The Commissioner of Public Buildings shall be responsible for the care, maintenance, and protection of the buildings and grounds of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in the same manner and to the same extent as he is responsible for the National Archives Building in the District of Columbia. Except as provided in the preceding sentence, the immediate custody and control of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, and such other buildings, grounds, and equipment as may from time to time become a part thereof, and their contents shall be vested in the Archivist of the United States, and

he is authorized to appoint and prescribe the duties of such officers and employees, including clerical assistance for the Board, as may be necessary for the execution of the functions vested in him by this title.

Archivist to prescribe suitable regulations.

SEC. 207. The Archivist shall prescribe regulations governing the arrangement, custody, protection, and use of the historical material acquired under this title; and, subject to such regulations, such material shall be available to the public free of charge: *Provided*, That the Archivist is authorized to charge and collect, under regulations prescribed by him, a fee not in excess of 25 cents per person for the privilege of visiting and viewing the exhibit rooms or museum portion of the said Library; and any funds so derived shall be paid by the Archivist into the special account provided for in subsection (d) of section 205 of this title, to be held, administered, and expended under the provisions of that subsection.

Proviso. Admittance fee.

Report to Congress.

SEC. 208. The Archivist shall make to the Congress, at the beginning of each regular session, a report for the preceding fiscal year as to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. Such report shall include a detailed statement of all accessions, all dispositions of historical material, and all receipts and expenditures on account of the said Library.

Appropriation authorized, payable from appropriations for National Archives Establishment.

SEC. 209. The costs incurred by the Archivist in carrying out the duties placed upon him by this title, including the expenses of the members of the Board and the costs of the Board's necessary clerical assistance, shall be paid out of the appropriations for The National Archives Establishment as other costs and expenses of The National Archives Establishment are paid; and such sums as may be necessary for such purposes are hereby authorized to be appropriated.

TITLE III—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT RESIDENCE

Acceptance of parts of Hyde Park estate of donor for use designated, subject to life estate, etc.

SEC. 301. The head of any executive department, pursuant to agreement between him and the donor, may accept for and in the name of the United States from the donor, or from such person or persons as shall be empowered to act for the donor, title to any part or parts of the said Hyde Park estate of the donor and his family which shall be donated to the United States for use in connection with any designated function of the Government administered in such department. The title to any such property may be accepted under this section notwithstanding that it may be subject to the life estate of the donor or of any other person or persons now living: *Provided*, That during the continuance of any life estate reserved therein no expense to the United States in connection with the ordinary maintenance of the property so acquired shall be incurred: *Provided further*, That the acceptance hereunder by the United States of the title to property in which any life estate is reserved shall not during the existence of such life estate exempt the property, except to the extent provided in section 304 of this title, from taxation by the town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, or the State of New York as other real property in the said town, county, or State is taxed under the applicable laws relating to taxation of real property.

Proviso. No Federal expense during continuance of life estate reserved therein.

Local and State taxes.

Jurisdiction and control upon expiration of all life estates reserved.

SEC. 302. Upon the expiration of all life estates reserved in any property acquired under this title for use in connection with a designated function of the Government, or, if no life estate is reserved, immediately upon the acceptance of title thereto, the head of the department administering the said function shall assume jurisdiction and control over the property so acquired and administer it for the purpose designated, subject to the applicable provisions of law.

Rights reserved by Congress.

SEC. 303. The right is reserved in the Congress to take such action and to make such changes, modifications, alterations, and improvements in connection with and upon any property acquired under this title, during or after the expiration of any life estate reserved therein, as the Congress shall deem proper and necessary to protect and preserve the same; but neither the improvements so made nor any increase in the value of the property by reason thereof shall be subject to taxation during the existence of any life estate reserved in the property.

Approved, July 18, 1939.

C: DESIGNATION ORDER

FEDERAL REGISTER, *Thursday, January 27, 1944*

TITLE 36—PARKS AND FORESTS

Chapter I—National Park Service

PART I—AREAS ADMINISTRATED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE [1]

ORDER DESIGNATING HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Whereas the Congress of the United States has declared it to be a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States; and

Whereas the Congress of the United States by Joint Resolution of July 18, 1939 (53 Stat. 1062–5), authorized the head of any executive department to accept for and in the name of the United States title to any part or parts of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Hyde Park estate for use in connection with any designated function of the Government administered in such department; and

Whereas subject to certain reservations and conditions title to approximately 33.23 acres of said historic and nationally significant estate has been vested in the United States pursuant to said Joint Resolution, having been donated by the said Franklin D. Roosevelt;

Now, therefore, I, Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, by virtue of and pursuant to the authority contained in the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), do hereby designate the following described lands, together with all historic structures thereon and all appurtenances connected therewith, situated in the Town of Hyde Park, County of Dutchess, and State of New York, to be a national historic site, having the name "Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site":

Beginning at a point in the west line of the New York and Albany Post Road where the said line is intersected by the southerly line of a 16.31 acre tract known as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library site and described in the deed from Franklin D. Roosevelt and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, his wife, to the United States, dated July 24, 1939, and recorded in the Dutchess County Clerk's Office in Book 576 of Deeds, at page 227, and which point is monumented by an iron pipe set five inches above the ground; thence along the southerly line of said library site the following courses and distances: North 87°27' West 0.03 of a chain (3.3 feet) to a granite monument set in the ground and marked "US FDR 1939", and North 87°27' West 17.87 chains (1179.42 feet) to a similarly marked granite monument; thence along the westerly line of the said library site North 0°10' East 8.45 chains (557.70 feet) to a similarly marked granite monument set in the division line between the lands of the said Franklin D. Roosevelt and land now or formerly of Mary Newbold Morgan; thence along the land now or formerly of said Mary Newbold Morgan the following courses and distances: South 87°08' West 7.56 chains (498.96 feet) to a point marked by a one-inch iron pipe set in a six-inch square concrete monument six inches above the ground with a brass cap marked "AP1 FDR 1943", and South 89°24' West 4.15 chains (273.90 feet) to a point in the center of a rock fence on said division line and which point is the northwesterly corner of the tract herein described; thence along other land of said Franklin D. Roosevelt the following four courses and distances: South 18°51' East 0.04 of a chain (2.64 feet) to an iron pipe monument constructed as aforesaid and marked "AP2 FDR 1943"; South 18°51' East 7.52 chains (496.32 feet) to an iron pipe monument constructed as aforesaid and marked "AP3 FDR 1943"; South 28°49' West 9.46 chains (624.36 feet) to an iron pipe constructed as aforesaid and marked "AP4 FDR 1943"; and South 43°56' East crossing a road leading to the river 0.68 of a chain (44.88 feet) to an iron pipe monument constructed as aforesaid, marked "AP5 FDR 1943", and set in the original division line between the southerly line of "Wheeler Place" and the northerly line of "Boreel Place"; thence along the said original division line and along other land of Franklin D. Roosevelt the following courses and distances: South 87°40' East 30.88 chains (2038.08 feet) to an iron pipe monument constructed as aforesaid and marked "AP6 FDR 1943", and South 87°40' East 0.10 of a chain (6.6 feet) to a point where the westerly line of said New York and Albany Post Road intersects the original southerly line of said "Wheeler Place" and the original northerly line of "Boreel Place", and which point is monumented by an iron pipe set six inches above the ground; thence continuing along the westerly line of the said road the following courses and distances: North 2°56' East 7.31 chains (482.46 feet) to an iron pipe set six inches above the ground and North 5°08' West 1.05 chains (69.96 feet) to the point or place of beginning, containing 33.23 acres, more or less.

The administration, protection, and development of this national historic site shall be exercised by the National Park Service in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Joint Resolution of July 18, 1939, and the Act of August 21, 1935, supra, all subject to the reservations and conditions contained in the deed conveying said property to the United States.

Warning is expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, deface, or remove any feature of this historic site.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of the Interior to be affixed, at the City of Washington, this 15th day of January 1944.

[SEAL] HAROLD L. ICKES,
Secretary of the Interior.

[F. R. Doc. 44-1345; Filed, January 26, 1944; 10:06 a. m.]

19. Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt

An Act to amend the joint resolution of July 18, 1939 (53 Stat. 1062), to provide for the acceptance of additional lands for the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, and for other purposes. (89 Stat. 81) (P.L. 94–19)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That title III of the joint resolution approved July 18, 1939 (53 Stat. 1062), is amended as follows:

(1) Amend section 301 to read as follows:

"SEC. 301. The head of any executive department may accept for and in the name of the United States, title to any part or parts of the said Hyde Park estate and title to any contiguous property or properties located in the town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, State of New York, which shall be donated to the United States for use in connection with any designated governmental function in the administration of this area. The title to any such property may be accepted under this section notwithstanding that it may be subject to the life estate of the donor or of any other person or persons now living: *Provided,* That during the continuance of any life estate reserved therein no expense to the United States in connection with the ordinary maintenance of the property so acquired shall be incurred: *Provided further,* That the acceptance hereunder by the United States of the title to property in which any life estate is reserved shall not during the existence of such life estate exempt the property from taxation by the town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, or the State of New York as other real property in the said town, county, or State is taxed under the applicable laws relating to taxation of real property.".

(2) A new section 304 is added, to read as follows:

"SEC. 304. In addition to such amounts as have been appropriated prior to the enactment of this section, there are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title, but not to exceed $104,000 for development purposes.".

* * * * * * *

Approved April 30, 1975.

Legislative History:

House Report No. 94–149 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
Senate Report No. 94–98 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
Congressional Record, Vol. 121 (1975):
Apr. 21, considered and passed House.
Apr. 29, considered and passed Senate.

Public Law 105–364
105th Congress

An Act

Nov. 10, 1998
[S. 2241]

To provide for the acquisition of lands formerly occupied by the Franklin D. Roosevelt family at Hyde Park, New York, and for other purposes.

16 USC 461 note [table].

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to acquire, by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, by donation, or otherwise, lands and interests in lands located in Hyde Park, New York, that were owned by Franklin D. Roosevelt or his family at the time of his death as depicted on the map entitled "F.D. Roosevelt Property Entire Park" dated July 26, 1962, and numbered FDR–NHS 3008. Such map shall be on file for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATION.

Lands and interests therein acquired by the Secretary shall be added to, and administered by the Secretary as part of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site or the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, as appropriate.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved November 10, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2241:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 105–400 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 144 (1998):
Oct. 7, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 15, considered and passed House.

Public Law 106–147
106th Congress

An Act

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to transfer administrative jurisdiction over land within the boundaries of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site to the Archivist of the United States for the construction of a visitor center.

Dec. 9, 1999
[H.R. 1104]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled ,

SECTION 1. VISITOR CENTER FOR HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, HYDE PARK, NEW YORK.

16 USC 461 note.

(a) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—The Secretary of the Interior may transfer to the Archivist of the United States administrative jurisdiction over land located in the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, for use by the Archivist for the construction of a visitor center facility to jointly serve the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, located in Hyde Park, New York.

(b) CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER.—

(1) PROTECTION OF HISTORIC SITE.—The transfer authorized in subsection (a) shall be subject to an agreement between the Secretary and the Archivist that shall include such provisions for the protection of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and the joint use of the facility to be constructed as the Secretary and the Archivist may consider necessary.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—A transfer made pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made without consideration or reimbursement.

(3) TERMINATION.—If use by the Archivist of the land referred to in subsection (a) is terminated by the Archivist at any time, administrative jurisdiction over the land shall automatically revert to the Department of the Interior.

(c) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) shall consist of not more than 1 acre of land as may be mutually

agreed to by the Secretary and the Archivist and more particularly described in the agreement required under subsection (b)(1).

Approved December 9, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1104 (S. 946):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 106–141 (Comm. on Resources).
SENATE REPORTS: No. 106–94 accompanying S. 946 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 145 (1999):
Aug. 2, considered and passed House.
Nov. 19, considered and passed Senate.

LIBER 694 PAGE 216

THIS INDENTURE, made the 10th day of June, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, between JAMES ROOSEVELT, residing at 623 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills, California, BASIL O'CONNOR, residing at 49 East 96th Street, New York, N. Y., and HENRY T. HACKETT, residing at Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York, AS TRUSTEES under the Last Will and Testament of FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, late of the Town of Hyde Park, County of Dutchess, State of New York, Deceased, parties of the first part, and VAL-KILL CO., INC., a New York corporation having an office at 295 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y., party of the second part,

WITNESSETH, that the parties of the first part, by virtue of the power and authority to them given in and by said Last Will and Testament, and in consideration of ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND ($115,000.00) DOLLARS, lawful money of the United States, paid by the party of the second part, do hereby grant and release unto the party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever,

ALL that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the Town of Hyde Park, County of Dutchess and State of New York, lying west of the center of Mariches Creek, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a corner of walls in the easterly line of the Albany Post Road, known as Route 9, and in the northerly line of lands of St. Andrew-on-Hudson, and running thence along said road line N 15° 54' 50" E 718.19 feet; N 15° 27' 20" E 21.47 feet; N 15° 30' 20" E 568.93 feet; N 14° 50' 40" E 42.27 feet; N 14° 38' 20" E 404.67 feet; N 13° 46' 20" E 104.86 feet; N 7° 43' 20" E 98.63 feet; and N 7° 04' 00" E 626.04 feet to the center of the present driveway running easterly through the herein-described premises from Route 9 to Violet Avenue known as Route 9G; thence still along the line of said Post Road N 5° 44' 40" E 13.39 feet; N 7° 56' 00" E 454.75 feet; N 7° 23' 10" E 147.18 feet; N 8° 08' 30" E 326.99 feet and N 7° 11' 20" E 509.58 feet to a corner of walls in the southerly line of lands of the Crumwold Acres Development Corporation, formerly Rogers; thence along the wall the line of said lands S 75° 41' 40" E 735.06 feet; S 75° 41' 10" E 192.55 feet; S 75° 02' 00" E 185.48 feet; S 76° 16' 50" E 201.49 feet; S 75° 49' 50" E 244.38 feet and S 75° 36' 40" E 676.44 feet to a corner of walls in the westerly line of lands of Gilbert; thence along the wall, the line of said lands,

S 5° 14' 02" W 392.12 feet and S 4° 57' 48" W 381.99 feet to a corner; thence still along said wall S 75° 20' 00" E 149.90 feet; S 74° 50' 00" E 406.29 feet; S 77° 01' 50" E 68.39 feet; S 75° 35' 00" E 110.03 feet; S 78° 26' 50" E 119.54 feet and S 78° 24' 20" E 304.3 feet more or less to a point in the center of Mariches Creek; thence down and along the center line of said creek, the line of lands of Elliott Roosevelt to the center of the bridge on the above mentioned driveway connecting Route 9 with Route 9G, the course connecting the last two above mentioned points being S 32° 44' 50" W 2099.13 feet; thence continuing down and along the center line of said creek and along said Elliott Roosevelt lands to a point in the northerly line of the above mentioned lands of St. Andrew-on-Hudson, the course connecting the last two above mentioned points being S 16° 44' 50" W 1296.64 feet; thence along the wall, the line of said lands of St. Andrew-on-Hudson N 76° 26' 40" W 234.0 feet more or less; N 75° 16' 30" W 261.06 feet; N 75° 03' 50" W 212.30 feet; N 77° 59' 50" W 72.13 feet; N 75° 11' 30" W 217.50 feet; N 74° 01' 40" W 129.17 feet; N 75° 07' 10" W 133.72 feet; N 76° 13' 50" W 81.00 feet; N 75° 24' 30" W 112.21 feet; N 74° 34' 30" W 65.80 feet; N 77° 06' 30" W 75.26 feet; N 76° 48' 00" W 74.31 feet; N 73° 53' 50" W 122.43 feet; N 76° 31' 10" W 351.21 feet and N 75° 22' 20" W 519.24 feet to the point or place of beginning. Containing 258.54 acres.

TOGETHER with the right in common with the public to a perpetual and unobstructed right-of-way or easement to the width of fifty (50) feet in, over and upon the portion of the existing private road, the south line of said road being 25 feet southerly from the center line of said road and the north line of said road being 25 feet northerly from the center line of said road, extending from the center of Mariches Creek on the west to Violet Avenue (New York State Highway 9G) on the east beginning at a point in the center of Mariches Creek and thence running in an easterly and northeasterly direction across the easterly portion of the "Dorsel Farm" and the westerly portion of the "Durphy Farm" and terminating at the intersection of said private road with New York State Highway 9G commonly known as Violet Avenue.

Said premises are sold SUBJECT TO:

(1) The right in common with the public to a perpetual and unobstructed right-of-way or easement to the width of fifty (50) feet in, over and upon the portion of the existing private road, the south line of said road being 25 feet southerly from the center line of said road and the north line of said road being 25 feet northerly from the center line of said road, extending from the Albany Post Road on the west to the center of Mariches Creek on the east beginning at the intersection of said private road with the Albany Post Road and thence running in an easterly and a southeast-

erly direction across the Bracken and a part of the Borsel Farms to a point in the center of Mariches Creek.

(2) The rights of the Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation and the New York Telephone Company in and upon said premises.

(3) All covenants, instruments, agreements, restrictions and easements of record affecting said premises.

TOGETHER with the appurtenances, and also the estate therein which the parties of the first part have power to convey or dispose of, whether individually, or by virtue of said Will or otherwise.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the premises herein granted unto the party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever.

The grantor, in compliance with Section 13 of the Lien Law, covenants that the grantor will receive the consideration for this conveyance and will hold the right to receive such consideration as a trust fund to be applied first for the purpose of paying the cost of the improvement and that the grantor will apply the same first to the payment of the cost of the improvement before using any part of the total of the same for any other purpose.

The party of the second part covenants that it will not at any time erect, maintain or suffer to be erected or maintained upon the premises hereby granted any factory, manufacturing establishment of any kind, machine shop, slaughter house, public garage for the storage or repair of vehicles, and will not erect, maintain or suffer to be erected or maintained on said premises any building, commercial sign or sign-board or structure of any kind within a distance of one hundred (100) feet of the east line of the New York and Albany Post Road. This covenant on the part of the party of the second part shall be binding upon its successors and assigns and shall and does attach to and run with the land hereby conveyed and it shall be lawful not only for the

LIBER 694 PAGE 219

said parties of the first part, their successors or assigns, but also for the owner or owners of any tracts, parcels or plots of land adjacent to or in the vicinity of said premises who may have derived title directly or indirectly from or through Franklin D. Roosevelt, Deceased, to institute and prosecute any proceedings at law or in equity in connection with any violation or threatened violation of said covenant.

AND the parties of the first part covenant that they have not done or suffered anything whereby the said premises have been encumbered in any way whatever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

In the presence of:

Earle R Kosne

James Roosevelt
James Roosevelt

Basil O'Connor
Basil O'Connor

Henry T. Hackett
Henry T. Hackett
as Trustees under the Last Will and Testament of FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, Deceased.

ACCEPTED
this 1st day of July, 1948.

VAL-KILL CO., INC.

By Elliott Roosevelt
Pres.

ATTEST:
Secretary

LIBER 694 PAGE 220

STATE OF NEW YORK)
: ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

On this 10th day of June, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, before me came JAMES ROOSEVELT, who resides at 673 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills, California, BASIL O'CONNOR, who resides at 49 East 96th Street, New York, N. Y., and HENRY T. HACKETT, who resides at Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York, to me known and known to me to be the individuals described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as Trustees under the Last Will and Testament of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Deceased.

William J. Donovan
Notary Public

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Kings County
Kings Co. Clk.'s No. [illegible]
N.Y. Co. Clk.'s No. [illegible]
Commission Expires March 30, 1950

STATE OF NEW YORK)
: ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

On this 1st day of July nineteen hundred and forty-eight, before me came Elliot Roosevelt, to me known, who, being by me duly sworn, did depose and say that he resides at Hyde Park New York (no street road or number) that he is the President of VAL-KILL CO., INC., the corporation described in and which executed the foregoing instrument; that he knows the seal of said corporation; that the seal affixed to said instrument is such corporate seal; that it was so affixed by order of the Board of Directors of said corporation and that he signed his name thereto by like order.

Eugenia Whalen
Notary Public

EUGENIA WHALEN
Notary Public in the State of New York
Residing in [illegible] County
Queens Co. Clk.'s No. [illegible]
Certificate filed in
N.Y. Co. Clk.'s No. [illegible]
Kings Co. Clk.'s No. [illegible]
Bronx Co. Clk.'s No. [illegible]
Commission Expires [illegible]

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DEED NUMBER 24322

602361

JAMES ROOSEVELT, BASIL O'CONNOR and
HENRY T. HACKETT, as Trustees under
the Last Will and Testament of
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, Deceased,

-to-

VAL-KILL CO., INC.

DEED

Dated: June 10, 1948.

TITLE GUARANTEE AND TRUST COMPANY

O'CONNOR & FARBER
120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

Form 1

No. 35910

State of New York
County of New York, } ss.:

I, ARCHIBALD R. WATSON, County Clerk and Clerk of the Supreme Court, New York County, a Court of Record having by law a seal, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that [signature]

whose name is subscribed to the annexed affidavit, deposition, certificate of acknowledgment or proof, was at the time of taking the same a NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of New York, duly commissioned and sworn and qualified to act as such throughout the State of New York; that pursuant to law a commission, or a certificate of his official character, and his autograph signature, have been filed in my office; that as such Notary Public he was duly authorized by the laws of the State of New York to administer oaths and affirmations, to receive and certify the acknowledgment or proof of deeds, mortgages, powers of attorney and other written instruments for lands, tenements and hereditaments to be read in evidence or recorded in this State, to protest notes and to take and certify affidavits and depositions; and that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of such Notary Public, or have compared the signature on the annexed instrument with his autograph signature deposited in my office, and believe that the signature is genuine.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this ______ day of ______ 194 8

County Clerk and Clerk of the Supreme Court, New York County

FEE PAID 25¢

Form 1.

No. 39052

State of New York
County of New York, } ss.:

I, ARCHIBALD R. WATSON, County Clerk and Clerk of the Supreme Court, New York County, a Court of Record having by law a seal, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that [signature]

whose name is subscribed to the annexed affidavit, deposition, certificate of acknowledgment or proof, was at the time of taking the same a NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of New York, duly commissioned and sworn and qualified to act as such throughout the State of New York; that pursuant to law a commission, or a certificate of his official character, and his autograph signature, have been filed in my office; that as such Notary Public he was duly authorized by the laws of the State of New York to administer oaths and affirmations, to receive and certify the acknowledgment or proof of deeds, mortgages, powers of attorney and other written instruments for lands, tenements and hereditaments to be read in evidence or recorded in this State, to protest notes and to take and certify affidavits and depositions; and that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of such Notary Public, or have compared the signature on the annexed instrument with his autograph signature deposited in my office, and believe that the signature is genuine.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this ______ day of ______ 194 8

County Clerk and Clerk of the Supreme Court, New York County

FEE PAID 25¢

11. Eleanor Roosevelt

An Act to authorize the establishment of the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site in the State of New York, and for other purposes. (91 Stat. 171) (P.L. 95–32)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to commemorate for the education, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations the life and work of an outstanding woman in American history, Eleanor Roosevelt, to provide, in a manner compatible with preservation, interpretation, and use thereof by and for the general public, a site for continuing studies, lectures, seminars, and other endeavors relating to the issues to which she devoted her considerable intellect and humanitarian concerns, and to conserve for public use and enjoyment in a manner compatible with the foregoing purposes an area of natural open space in an expanding urbanized environment, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to establish the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, including the former home of Eleanor Roosevelt, Val-Kill, as depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site", numbered ELRO–90,000–NHS and dated May 1977. Said map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Secretary of the Interior, Washington, District of Columbia. The Secretary is authorized to acquire such land and improvements thereon by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

SEC. 2. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the site shall be renovated, maintained, and administered by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), as amended.

(b) The acquisition, renovation, administration, and management of the site and its conservation for public use and enjoyment shall be carried out by the Secretary and the studies, lectures, seminars, and other endeavors relating to the issues to which Eleanor Roosevelt devoted her intellect and concern may be carried out under cooperative agreements between the Secretary and qualified public or private entities. Such agreements shall contain provisions authorizing the Secretary or his designated representatives to enter upon the site at all reasonable times for purposes of renovation, maintenance, administration, interpretation, and visitor conduct, assuring that no changes or alterations are made to the site inconsistent with its historic significance, and may include such other provisions assuring the conduct of studies, lectures, seminars, and other endeavors as are mutually agreeable to the Secretary and the public or

private entities responsible for conducting the same under such agreements.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall erect or cause to be erected and maintained an appropriate monument or memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt within the boundaries of the site.

SEC. 4 (a) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act, not to exceed $575,000 for acquisition of land and interests in lands, and not to exceed $420,000 for development, not more than $50,000 of which may be made available for the purposes of section 3 of this Act.

(b) Within three years from the effective date of this Act the Secretary shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a general management plan for the use and development of the site consistent with the purposes of this Act, indicating—

(1) the lands and interests in lands adjacent or related to the site which are deemed necessary or desirable for the purposes of resource protection, scenic integrity, or management and administration of the area in furtherance of the purposes of this Act and the estimated cost thereof;

(2) the number of visitors and types of public use within the site which can be accommodated in accordance with the protection of its resources; and

(3) the location and estimated cost of facilities deemed necessary to accommodate such visitors and uses.

* * * * * * *

Approved May 26, 1977.

Legislative History:

House Report No. 95-264 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
Senate Report No. 95-148 accompanying S. 1125 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
Congressional Record, Vol. 123 (1977):
May 9, considered and passed House.
May 17, considered and passed Senate.
Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, Vol. 13, No. 22:
May 26, Presidential statement.

Public Law 105–364
105th Congress

An Act

Nov. 10, 1998
[S. 2241]

To provide for the acquisition of lands formerly occupied by the Franklin D. Roosevelt family at Hyde Park, New York, and for other purposes.

16 USC 461 note [table].

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to acquire, by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, by donation, or otherwise, lands and interests in lands located in Hyde Park, New York, that were owned by Franklin D. Roosevelt or his family at the time of his death as depicted on the map entitled "F.D. Roosevelt Property Entire Park" dated July 26, 1962, and numbered FDR–NHS 3008. Such map shall be on file for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATION.

Lands and interests therein acquired by the Secretary shall be added to, and administered by the Secretary as part of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site or the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, as appropriate.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved November 10, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2241:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 105–400 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 144 (1998):
Oct. 7, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 15, considered and passed House.

○

B: DESIGNATION ORDER

14. Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

Designation of certain lands to comprise the site: Order of December 18, 1940

ORDER DESIGNATING THE VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, HYDE PARK, N. Y.

[Dec. 18, 1940—5 F. R. 5282]

WHEREAS the Congress of the United States has declared it to be a national policy to preserve for the public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States, and

WHEREAS certain lands and structures in the town of Hyde Park, New York, part of the estate of the late Frederick W. Vanderbilt, have been declared by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments to be representative and illustrative of their period and hence of national significance in the economic, sociological, and cultural history of the United States, and

WHEREAS title to the above-mentioned lands and structures is vested in the United States, having been donated by Margaret Louise Van Alen for preservation as a memorial to her uncle, the late Frederick W. Vanderbilt, from whom she inherited the property by will:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, under and by virtue of the authority conferred upon the Secretary of the Interior by Section 2 of the act of Congress approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), do hereby designate the following-described lands, with the structures thereon, to be a national historic site, having the name "Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site":

All those pieces or parcels of land, together with the structures thereon, situated in the Town of Hyde Park, County of Dutchess, State of New York, conveyed to the United States of America by Margaret Louise Van Alen by deed dated May 21, 1940, and recorded in the County Clerk's Office, Dutchess County, in book number 583 of deeds at page 323, and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL 1

Beginning at the northeasterly corner of a stone post in a corner of wall in the westerly line of the Albany Post Road, and in the southerly line of lands of the Huyler Estate, and running thence along the easterly face of the wall, the westerly line of said Post Road, south 21°00′30″ west 83.65 feet; south 22°51′10″ west 140.32 feet; south 21°30′50″ west 396.97 feet; south 15°07′20″ west 42.81 feet; south 9°51′40″ west 206.21 feet; south 9°45′00″ west 231.40 feet; south 8°38′50″ west 873.49 feet; south 7°15′30″ west 193.15 feet; south 1°45′40″ west 37.14 feet; south 1°00′50″ east 68.41 feet; south 2°30′40″ east 170.55 feet; south 4°20′10″ east 100.16 feet; south 5°57′20″ east 142.63 feet; south 12°55′11″ east 68.20 feet; south 19°26′40″ east 34.40 feet; south 22°03′40″ east 39.58 feet; south 25°33′50″ east 32.47 feet; south 27°35′20″ east 206.71 feet; south 25°23′50″ east 143.02 feet; south 25°57′40″ east 77.08 feet; south 24°39′30″ east 305.01 feet; south 25°04′50″ east 122.08 feet; south 22°00′00″ east 115.89 feet; south 20°24′20″ east 226.52 feet to a crowsfoot cut in the easterly wall;

thence leaving the Albany Post Road south 75°53'20" west 213.84 feet to the southeastern corner of the Old Stoutenburgh Cemetery; thence following the boundary wall of said Cemetery north 19°08'30" west 130.72 feet; south 77°56'05" west 108.95 feet; south 11°37'28" east 134.28 feet; thence leaving said wall and following along a board fence at the end of Doty Avenue south 77°05'01" west 11.97 feet to a corner; thence leaving said fence south 75°45'23" west 267.06 feet to a post; thence south 13°40'33" west 820.27 feet to a crowsfoot cut in the top of the stone wall along the northerly line of West Market Street; thence following along said stone wall south 44°40'02" west 10.95 feet; south 40°33'30" west 43.20 feet; south 35°08'40" west 203.25 feet; south 34°28'20" west 32.94 feet; south 50°37'10" west 23.63 feet; south 57°39'40" west 25.53 feet; south 62°40'00" west 38.32 feet; south 68°36'10" west 305.06 feet; south 68°13'40" west 16.44 feet; south 62°55'30" west 19.28 feet; south 58°24'40" west 420.71 feet; south 62°53'20" west 27.41 feet; south 68°09'40" west 110.01 feet; south 78°03'45" west 31.73 feet; south 85°08'00" west 132.14 feet to an angle in said wall where it leaves said street; thence south 57°30'10" west 10.54 feet to a point, being a corner of lands of the New York Central Railroad Company; thence along the same north 60°40'40" west 160.90 feet; north 59°22'40" west 28.95 feet; south 43°23'20" west 5.67 feet; and north 59°36'40" west about 8.10 feet to a point in the westerly bank of Crum Elbow Creek; thence down and along the same to a point distant south 44°14'10" west about 215.95 feet from the last above-described point; thence leaving said creek and still along the lands of said railroad company north 51°35'50" west about 48 feet to a rail monument; thence on the same course 39.86 feet to another rail monument; north 83°02'40" west 48.38 feet; north 1°30'20" east 138.45 feet; and north 36°30'50" west 69.81 feet to the southerly end of the fence; thence along the easterly face of said fence north 1°08'50" east 65.66 feet; north 6°44'50" east 406.07 feet; north 9°09'40" east 276.67 feet; north 7°43'50" east 334. 57 feet; north 3°55'00" east 199.67 feet; north 13°02'30" east 2722.14 feet; north 12°42'20" east 240.24 feet; north 11°16'00" east 61.08 feet; north 9°03'40" east 172.43 feet; 6°51'00" east 94.61 feet; north 5°45'00" east 50.94 feet; north 3°07'30" east 238.42 feet; and north 2°33'30" east 1095.27 feet to a concrete post at the end of the fence in the southerly line of lands of the Huyler Estate; thence along the same, a wire fence south 44°27'50" east 93.57 feet; south 67°20'20" east 69.38 feet; north 69°44'20" east 132.07 feet; north 23°26'50" east 24.90 feet to the westerly end of a wall; thence along said wall south 74°46'00" east 234.67 feet; south 82°22'40" east 234.06 feet; south 60°17'00" east 578.04 feet; south 60°35'50" east 176.17 feet; and south 61°01'40" east 85.38 feet to the point or place of beginning. Containing 201.086 acres.

PARCEL 2

Beginning at a concrete fence post in the westerly line of lands of the New York Central Railroad Company, and on the high water line of the Hudson River, said point being distant north 24°46'00" west 275.62 feet from the northwesterly corner of the above-described Parcel 1, and running thence along the westerly face of the fence, the line of said railroad lands, south 3°00'00" west 1639.27 feet and south 3°04'40" east 102.20 feet to another point on the high water line of said river; thence up and along said high water line to the point or place of beginning. Containing 10.56 acres.

Together with all rights of the United States in and to the roadway and

bridge connecting the above-described parcels over the lands of the New York Central Railroad Company.

The administration, protection, and development of this national historic site shall be exercised by the National Park Service in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 21, 1935, *supra*.

Warning is expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, deface, or remove any feature of this historic site.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of the Interior to be affixed, in the city of Washington, this 18th day of December, 1940.

[SEAL]

HAROLD L. ICKES,
Secretary of the Interior.

Appendix C: Historical Overview

By Larry Lowenthal

Introduction

As the 20th Century recedes, we gradually gain perspective on that dynamic but tormented period. Historians will endlessly revisit and reevaluate the departed century, and public perceptions will swing through cyclic oscillations. Over time, details will blur until only the most prominent events and individuals will stand out, like islands in a hazy sea. Yet, although we are still a long way from achieving detachment, it is certain that Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt will endure as landmarks of the past century.

One of the many paradoxes of Franklin D. Roosevelt's life is that, although his influence reached into the remotest corners of the world, he was deeply grounded in a particular locality. We often associate prominent historical figures with their favored places—Washington with Mount Vernon, Jefferson with Monticello—but even they do not match Roosevelt's lifelong, intimate connection with Hyde Park. Since the central story of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt describes their development as individuals, their growth into managing the responsibilities that they accepted, it becomes especially important to understand the setting in which this development took place. As their administrator, the National Park Service bears a weighty obligation to preserve these sites so that the lives of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt can be understood and interpreted indefinitely into the future.

Although the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites today form distinct units, their landscapes share many similarities, beginning with their common setting on the east bank of the Hudson River. Vanderbilt Mansion and the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt are centered on river terraces, while Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (Val-Kill) is located on an upper terrace. Between the terraces is rough land, marked by conspicuous stone outcroppings. Top Cottage, the easternmost park component, is situated on Dutchess Hill, a Taconic foothill that overlooks the valley.

Prior to European settlement, the region surrounding the park formed part of the homeland of the Algonquian-speaking Wappinger Indians. The Wappingers were agriculturalists who also hunted and gathered. While their primary villages were to the south, there is evidence that they cultivated the river terraces within the parks and hunted and gathered in the oak-chestnut forests. Aware of the former native presence, FDR believed (probably incorrectly) that the wide-spreading form of the oaks in front of the Library showed that they had grown up in agricultural fields cleared by the Wappingers.

Although future Dutchess County formed part of the New Netherlands colony claimed by the Dutch after Henry Hudson's voyage of discovery in 1609, no Dutch settlers are known to have occupied the area when it was conquered by Great Britain in 1664. Settlement proceeded slowly as the royal governors divided the territory into large grants. It was only in the last decade of the 17th Century that Poughkeepsie was settled and land comprising the future Roosevelt estate was granted to private owners.

During the early stages of European land acquisition and settlement, the histories of the Vanderbilt and Roosevelt lands followed a broadly similar pattern, though they began to diverge in detail. The Roosevelt lands were part of the Great Nine Partners Patent, granted in 1697, while the Vanderbilt lands lay within the next tract to the north, the Fauconnier Patent, split off from Henry Pawling's purchase in 1705. The subdivision of the Great Nine Partners Patent into long, rectangular riverfront parcels called Water Lots had a significant influence on the development of the Roosevelt property. In contrast, most of the Vanderbilt lands were originally held as a single estate that comprised the entire patent. Despite these differences, the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt lands later evolved as country estates, sharing a common setting along the Albany Post Road. While Val-Kill and Top Cottage display some of the characteristics of country-place development, their landscapes originated as early 20th Century retreats formed from small yeoman farms that had been settled on uplands above the river estates.

Roosevelt Estate

EARLY HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

After its hesitant beginning, Euro-American settlement of Dutchess County expanded rapidly in the 1730s and '40s and reached the Nine Partners Patent, where the first permanent settler arrived in 1742. The Roosevelt estate and neighboring Bellefield trace their occupancy to the Crooke and Everson families, who established farms on subdivisions of the Water Lots. Each rectangular Water Lot extended from the Hudson River nearly two miles east to the Taconic foothills, an arrangement dictated by the fact that the river offered the most practical means of transport. On their south subdivision, the Crooke family built a stone house in the early 1750s on the west side of the Post Road, near the present Red House (J. R. Roosevelt house); and on the north subdivision (now Bellefield) they set off a family burial ground. The subdivision between the two Crooke properties was purchased by John Everson in 1734, and by 1793 his widow or nephews built a tenant house that may have become the core of the Roosevelts' "big house."

During the late 18th and early 19th Centuries, the Crooke and Everson families subdivided their lands into riverfront and upland parcels. The uplands, with poorer soils and less picturesque settings, were settled by yeoman farmers, while the riverfront parcels were developed into country places by wealthy residents of New York City. The Everson land and the northerly Crooke subdivision became the country place of the Boorman-Wheeler family (Josiah Wheeler was the son-in-law of James Boorman, who resided at a house built in 1795 by the Johnston family, now Bellefield). The Wheelers resided at an estate they called Brierstone, the predecessor of Roosevelt's Springwood. The southerly Crooke subdivision became the country place of the Boreel family, centered at a house built or remodeled c.1830 and later known as the Red House.

In 1867, FDR's father, James Roosevelt, purchased the 111-acre Wheeler Place and named his estate "Springwood." The next year, he purchased the neighboring 234-acre Boreel Place, comprising the "Red House" on the west side of the Post Road and a complex of farm buildings opposite it on the east side of

the road. James Roosevelt was the seventh generation of his family in America, beginning with a Dutch immigrant in the 1640s, and was the third generation to reside in Dutchess County. Although the Dutch name persisted down the male line, the ancestry was gradually diluted by other ethnic strains. James Roosevelt had been born in and resided at Mount Hope, a home built by his grandfather in 1818 farther south along the Post Road but still in the town of Hyde Park. It was after Mount Hope burned in 1866 that James purchased the Wheeler property. He made the Wheeler house his family's country home and leased out the "Red House." In 1871 he expanded his holdings by purchasing the 183-acre farm component of the Boorman Place across from Springwood on the east side of the Post Road. Together with the Boreel farm to the south, the Roosevelts called their lands east of the Post Road the "Home Farm." In 1886, the elder Roosevelt purchased a 98-acre parcel to the south of the Red House property known as the Kirchner Place, a parcel without any major structures. Bellefield, the Boorman land west of the Post Road adjacent to Springwood, was purchased in 1885 by Senator Thomas Newbold and remained in his family throughout FDR's lifetime.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT: EARLY YEARS AT HYDE PARK

James Roosevelt's wife died in 1876, and four years later he married Sara Delano, a woman 26 years younger. She was also a member of the Hudson Valley gentry, having grown up on an estate at Newburgh, and was proud to trace her ancestry to Plymouth Colony. James had a son by his first marriage, James Roosevelt Roosevelt (1854–1927), known as Rosy. He was FDR's half-brother, but old enough to have been his father. The "Red House" became Rosy's country home. At nearby Springwood, on January 30, 1882, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the only child of the elder James and Sara Delano, was born.

As a favored only child of an older father and a devoted mother, Franklin enjoyed an idyllic childhood within the shelter of the Hudson River aristocracy. His earliest impressions were suffused with comfortable household images, set amid the varied natural beauty of the estate, enhanced by generations of previous owners. Outside his window, the majestic Hudson seemed to represent changeless stability. Meanwhile, the spectacle of bustling river traffic, the busy main line of the Hudson River Railroad on its shore, perhaps the lofty Poughkeepsie railroad bridge, completed when he was six, accompanied by his father's references to business dealings, thrilled the boy's imagination with the prospects of an expanding national economy.

Despite the 54-year age difference, James Roosevelt was an informative companion for his son. As they explored and monitored the estate, the boy unconsciously absorbed an intimate knowledge of the endlessly fascinating landscape. Most of the future president's education was supervised by his mother. Except for necessary dealings with servants and deferential local trades people, the family's social contacts were confined to members of their elite class. Every aspect of Franklin's early years combined to give him a sense of confident security, untouched by the risks and uncertainties that beset the overwhelming majority of his countrymen. Until he left for Groton school at the age of 14, Franklin had never been separated from his immensely supportive family. He departed

sustained by an upbringing that had given him every reason to believe that he was special.

After preparing at Groton under the formidable direction of Endicott Peabody, Franklin Roosevelt entered Harvard in 1900, and during his first semester there his father died. James Roosevelt's will left the "Red House" and adjoining Kirchner Place to Rosy, and the Wheeler Place and the Home Farm to FDR, subject to a life estate for Sara. Lonely and fearful of losing control, Sara took an apartment in Boston to be near her son. At Harvard, Franklin generally enjoyed himself and was content with a "gentleman's C." His main distinction, which proved useful in his later career, was as editor of the school newspaper, the Crimson.

Growing up in Hyde Park and on his visits afterwards, Franklin Roosevelt socialized actively with neighboring families and engaged in a wide variety of outdoor pursuits. Even after his father's death, no sharp distinction was made between the two segments of the estate, and Franklin regularly visited his half-brother and his children, who were closer to Franklin's age. Following a series of interior trails or by small boat on the Hudson, Franklin often traveled to his uncle's home at Rosedale, where he engaged in the once-popular and fast sport of ice yachting, as well as other riverfront activities.

FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR: BEGINNINGS OF A POLITICAL CAREER

Perhaps the most surprising and ultimately far-sighted act of Franklin's youth was the courtship of his distant cousin, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt. Franklin's mother opposed the match, ostensibly because both parties were too young, but the relationship survived, and the couple was married March 17, 1905. Until then the young man had revealed little evidence of personal or intellectual depth. Handsome and affable, he skimmed along the gilded surface of life, enjoying the benefits of his privileged status. Although her family background was similar, Eleanor's childhood had been different and unsettling. Her mother had died when she was eight, and her father, a younger brother of President Theodore Roosevelt, though irresistibly charming, was an alcoholic and died when Eleanor was ten. Cared for by often unsympathetic relatives, Eleanor experienced little of the serenity that defined Franklin's childhood. Considering herself awkward and unattractive, she emerged with feelings of insecurity that took years to surmount. The stresses of her early life also gave her the sensitivity to understand the anxieties and hardships of others.

As president from 1901 to 1909, Theodore Roosevelt was an overpowering presence in the lives of his niece Eleanor and her husband. At their wedding, he gave away the bride, after which he took over as the center of attention. The Roosevelt lines had split after Nicholas Roosevelt, the first generation born in America, who was the common ancestor of both Roosevelt presidents. In the 19th Century, the "Oyster Bay" Roosevelts became Republican, while the "Hyde Park" branch were Democrats; although in reality their views were not far apart; and, prior to Theodore, the Roosevelt and Delano families were primarily concerned with business, not politics. The two branches remained in frequent contact; Eleanor's father Elliott had been Franklin's godfather, and the future

married couple had occasionally played together as children at Hyde Park. From spending many summers at a Hudson River estate near Tivoli, north of Hyde Park, Eleanor was familiar with the lifestyle of the valley aristocracy.

President in his own right after the 1904 election, Theodore Roosevelt came forth as the dynamic leader of the reformist movements gathered under the heading of progressivism. Roughly 25 years older than Franklin and Eleanor, he was the right age to inspire emulation. Franklin had been sufficiently moved to break with his family's Democratic tradition and support him in 1904. Eleanor, whose innate human sympathy had been deepened by the experience of volunteering at a Lower East Side settlement house and education at a liberal school in England, greatly admired her energetic uncle.

Sara Roosevelt kept close to the young couple by building adjoining connected houses for herself and them in Manhattan. Franklin attended Columbia Law School, passed the bar exam, and practiced law halfheartedly with a prestigious law firm. Meanwhile, Eleanor devoted herself to domesticity, bearing six children (one of whom died in infancy) in ten years. Franklin's political career began in 1910, when he accepted the Democratic nomination for state senator in his home district. Campaigning in a Republican stronghold, he learned political skills and narrowly won election in a year when Democrats made substantial statewide gains. Running for office caused him to spend more time at Hyde Park, and he began to take an active role in the management of the estate. With his mother, he planned a program of improvements to the big house, gardens, and Home Farm, and began a scientific forestry program. As a youthful senator in Albany, he generally promoted progressive measures, occasionally clashed with the Tammany Hall political machine, and was conspicuous in upholding the interests of farmers and fruit growers. In the 1912 election he established a productive relationship with Louis Howe, a keen political advisor.

In the pivotal election of 1912, Franklin Roosevelt actively supported the progressive Democrat, Woodrow Wilson. When Wilson won against a divided Republican Party, Roosevelt was rewarded by being named assistant secretary of the Navy—a position Theodore Roosevelt had earlier held. In this demanding post in the years before and during World War I, Franklin gained vital administrative experience and learned his way around Washington. Looking ahead to further political advancement and needing a larger home for his family, Franklin and his mother substantially rebuilt the Hyde Park house in neoclassical style in 1915–16. This alteration, which gave the home its present appearance, imposed dignified unity on the previous piecemeal construction.

Without actively seeking the honor, Roosevelt was nominated for vice-president on the Democratic ticket in 1920. He waged a valiant struggle in what proved to be a hopeless cause, but his wide-ranging travels and innumerable speeches made his name familiar and impressed the public with his vigor. He and the presidential candidate James M. Cox of Ohio battled to support Wilson's League of Nations, but the mood of the country had swung away from the excitement of progressivism and internationalism, and the Democrats were crushingly defeated.

Despite occasional political setbacks and the early loss of one of their children, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt seemed to be fortune's favorites. Handsome, successful, born into an aristocracy that smoothed their path, they were easy to envy. Then, in a relatively short span of time, the façade of bliss was shattered by two catastrophes. First was Eleanor's discovery in late 1918 that her husband was having a love affair with a woman she knew well. She was devastated by this revelation. Then, in August 1921, while vacationing at Campobello, Maine, Franklin became seriously ill. For a person who cultivated a vigorous image, he had experienced several bouts of illness; but this one proved far more serious, and after a couple of weeks of medical indecision he was diagnosed with polio. A man not yet 40, who had relished physical activity in the style of Theodore Roosevelt, now lay paralyzed. Together, these disasters reshaped the couple's relationship and had far-reaching effects on American political life.

In fighting back from his affliction, Franklin Roosevelt displayed strength of character that few would have expected. He determined to recover to the fullest extent possible and to resume his political career. This placed him in opposition to his mother, who used the crippling illness to strengthen her feeling, based on a patrician distaste for politics, that Franklin should remain a Hyde Park squire. Undoubtedly, his personal anguish gave him sensitivity to other people's troubles that had not previously been evident. As Eleanor confirmed, "It is only when someone has gone through the kind of suffering my husband had that they can relate to the problems of mankind."

For Eleanor the two crises also reshaped her character. She never recovered the trust she had formerly felt, so the nature of the marriage changed to become more a partnership of equals. New circumstances forced her to become more independent and self-reliant. Coached by Louis Howe, whom she grudgingly came to respect, she overcame at least the outward signs of insecurity and took an ever-widening and more effective role in politics. She served as her infirm husband's representative and agent, keeping his name alive in the party and informing him of developments. At the same time, although she had not supported the women's suffrage amendment, she began to pursue a feminist agenda, working to give women a stronger voice in politics. In the process, she formed close friendships with several strong-willed, competent women.

These friendships strengthened Eleanor Roosevelt's growing independence and self-assurance and led to the creation of her personal retreat, Val-Kill. In 1924 Franklin helped Eleanor and two close friends, Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook, create a retreat along the banks of the Fall Kill on one of the upland farms he had acquired. After building a stone cottage, which became Nancy and Marion's home, the women established a business, named Val-Kill Industries, producing furniture, metal ware, and fabrics with the aim of reviving traditional crafts as a means to train unemployed rural residents so that they could remain on the land. Franklin was wholly sympathetic to this effort; as an essentially rural person he was concerned that lack of opportunity was forcing rural youth to migrate to the cities, exposing them to less wholesome influences and creating an imbalance in national life. For Eleanor, who said that "For over forty years I

was only a visitor" at the big house, Val-Kill allowed her to develop her personality and interests away from the presence of her mother-in-law. Her dedication to youth remained strong, and she became a part owner and teacher at a private school in New York City.

Beginning in 1911, Franklin had embarked on a program to expand his estate eastward beyond the "Home Farm" his father had assembled by purchasing upland farms. Usually he referred to these farms by the name of their occupants when he was growing up. Over the course of nearly three decades, he more than doubled the size of the estate to 1,521 acres. His primary motivation was to enhance his forestry program, which he conceived to showcase progressive practices aimed at returning marginal farmlands to productivity in order to conserve natural resources and revive the rural economy. In 1912, he set out his first forest plantation in old fields below the Big House, and began reforesting marginal lands on the Home Farm and his newly acquired upland farms. These accessions of scruffy land were of little interest to Sara and enabled Franklin to pursue his concerns away from the main house, much as Eleanor did at Val-Kill.

Sara and Franklin shared the management of the "Home Farm," but Sara wanted it to continue as a gentleman's farm, as it had been when her husband was alive. Buying the outlying farms allowed Franklin to attempt to make them profitable, in accord with his principles. Franklin was perfectly happy as a village squire; he differed from his mother in wanting to build on this solid local foundation to operate in a larger and more challenging realm. Within the sphere of Hyde Park, he was a familiar figure, with a wide circle of friends and thoroughly integrated into the ordinary life of the town. His deep-rooted fascination with the history of Dutchess County never wavered, and he held the post of Hyde Park town historian while serving as governor of the state.

Roosevelt's memorable "happy warrior" speech nominating New York Governor Al Smith for president at the 1924 Democratic national convention marked his return to national politics. The business-dominated "normalcy" of the 1920s was an unpropitious time for the Democrats; nevertheless Franklin felt that duty to the party compelled him to make the race for governor in 1928, when Smith was accepted as the national standard-bearer. Roosevelt had hoped to delay his candidacy for four more years in order to make further progress in his recovery from polio but concluded that refusal would alienate his party. In taking up the campaign for governor, he recognized the likelihood that he would never regain full use of his legs. Although Smith, carrying several political burdens, was trounced, Roosevelt fought to a narrow victory. As governor of the nation's most populous state during a low ebb in his party's fortunes, he automatically emerged as a leading prospect for national office.

Roosevelt compiled a respectable record in two terms as governor, despite Republican control of the legislature, and proved that his disability did not impede him from carrying out the duties of high office. As governor he was in a position to seek professional assistance with his forestry program. Between 1930 and 1933, he worked with the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University to establish demonstration and experimental plantations on the estate and

to draw up management plans for the native oak forest. From then on, the forestry program was managed in large part by Nelson C. Brown, a professor in the College of Forestry. By the time of his death, FDR had planted over a half-million trees on the estate, primarily on the upland farms.

In addition to forestry, FDR rented out the upland farms to tenants, who used the land for crops, dairy cattle, and poultry. This land and its residents retained their restorative effect, and he often drove his specially equipped auto to the farms, forest plantations, and oak woods along a network of earthen roads. He felt that the mansion grounds had a similar beneficial effect, and he followed a regimen of swimming and walking to help his physical recovery. The house, after its modernization, facilitated his political career as a setting for meetings, a personal retreat, and housing for important guests. He followed a ritual of greeting the public from the terrace on his election nights.

Despite powerful advantages, Roosevelt's campaign failed to capture the 1932 Democratic presidential nomination on the first ballot. He was nominated only on the fourth ballot and only after accepting John N. Garner of Texas as his vice-presidential candidate. The party that Roosevelt now headed, though it considered itself to be the successor of the Jeffersonians, was not so much an organized political party as an assemblage of factions and interests. Most conspicuously, it was an uneasy alliance of big-city political bosses, often grounded in ethnic neighborhoods, and segregationist southerners. The urban machines in the North, though providing a power base for their bosses, were seldom able to carry entire states, so the party's geographical and congressional base was the South. In that region the party leadership, though sometimes tinged with racist populism, represented extremely conservative political and social ideas and saw as its primary objective the preservation of second-class status for African Americans. As candidate and president, Roosevelt was never lastingly successful at reshaping this cumbersome entity into an effective instrument of his policies.

Roosevelt's acceptance speech rather casually promised a "new deal," and this term caught on to become the defining label of his campaign and administration. With the country struggling through the Great Depression, Roosevelt would have seemed to have an easy path to the White House against the incumbent Republican Herbert Hoover; nevertheless he waged an active campaign and emerged with a solid victory.

THE ROOSEVELT PRESIDENCY

When Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated on March 4, 1933, the country was sunk in the most desperate crisis it had known since the Civil War. A quarter of the workforce was unemployed; banks throughout the nation were on the brink of collapse; bankruptcies proliferated; and mortgage foreclosures threatened millions who had considered themselves homeowners. The defining image of the time showed former white-collar workers in newly shabby suits selling apples on dreary street corners. Roosevelt's campaign had provided mixed clues about his future course: he had promised to lower taxes, balance the budget and reduce the federal bureaucracy, commitments that later proved troublesome. By nature he was not an ideologue, and he probably did not have a consistent

philosophy, but he was able to inspire a dispirited citizenry. His memorable phrase "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," his big grin, and his radio "fireside chats" began to restore confidence.

In contrast to the perceived inactivity of the Hoover administration, the New Deal generated a sense of vigor and purpose, bringing to Washington a flood of idealistic people, many of them young and imbued with the progressive belief that society could be remolded to provide greater security, opportunity and equality. Seizing on the country's desperate hunger for leadership, the Roosevelt administration, in its famed "Hundred Days" brought forth a bewildering but electrifying proliferation of programs and agencies. These extraordinary "alphabet agencies"—AAA, CCC, TVA, NIRA—and measures such as the "bank holiday" and regulation of the securities business, though sometimes unclear and even contradictory in their scope, instilled new hope. Many of these acts showed signs of being improvised and experimental, but the sheer sense of dynamism they conveyed was welcome. Despite the wide gulf in personal experience, the President was able to convince ordinary people that he understood and felt their concerns.

With her resolute energy, Eleanor Roosevelt became her husband's emissary and "eyes," traveling widely to observe conditions and meet people throughout the nation. In contrast to Hoover, who had used force to disperse a "bonus army" of veterans, FDR sent Eleanor to visit their camp and express sympathy with their plight. She also wrote books and launched a regular editorial column, "My Day," which showed increasing independence of thought and attracted a devoted following. She became by far the most visible presidential spouse in American history, but her prominence had a cost, as she gave up teaching, and her interest in Val-kill Industries diminished. Her dedication to social improvement had found a more compelling outlet in the Arthurdale community in Appalachian West Virginia. Primarily a victim of economic conditions, the Val-kill business closed in the mid-1930s, and Eleanor converted the factory building into her seasonal home and retreat.

After a relative lull, the "Second Hundred Days" in the Spring of 1935 brought further legislative success with the passage of the Social Security and Wagner Labor Relations Acts. Roosevelt and his labor secretary Frances Perkins had long advocated some form of social security, and although the act as passed contained various political compromises, it could be seen as a beachhead for further advances.

The 1936 election served as a referendum on the New Deal. For the first part of Roosevelt's administration his conservative foes, stunned by the magnitude of the economic catastrophe, were in disarray; but by 1936, encouraged by the business revival, they had regrouped. To an unprecedented degree, the President became the focus of vehement personal hostility. His opponents, many of them powerful in the media and corporate board rooms, described him as a traitor to his class, referred to him as "that man" or refused to utter his name. The intensity of this hatred is difficult to explain in rational terms. His enemies ignored the fundamentally conservative nature of the country squire, with his profound respect for tradition and continuity. Rather than betraying his class,

he had probably saved American capitalism when it seemed to have collapsed. Always pragmatic, he never pursued a doctrinaire program, not even Keynesian economics. Vituperation spilled over onto Eleanor Roosevelt, who to many seemed more dangerously radical than her husband and represented a new and threatening type of woman. As the campaign progressed the President, whose natural inclination was to build consensus, responded in kind. Declaring that the forces of privilege were unanimous in their hatred of him, he defiantly welcomed their hostility: "I should like to have to have it said of my first administration that in it the forces of selfishness and of lust for power met their match. I should like to have it said of my second administration that in it these forces met their master."

If, indeed, the election had been a referendum on the New Deal, the voters gave it overwhelming approval, as Roosevelt swept all but two states and his party increased its already great preponderance in Congress. In his second inaugural his declaration that "I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished," proclaimed that the work of reform was far from complete. Perhaps overconfident after his smashing victory, FDR made an uncharacteristic political miscalculation when he attempted to enlarge, or pack, the Supreme Court, where a narrow reactionary majority had blocked many New Deal initiatives. Although the effort may have led to shifts in the court that swung the balance away from the obstructionists, the overall failure of the maneuver dissipated the aura of infallibility and invincibility that had surrounded the President since 1932. Soon after, a surprising economic slump, with renewed unemployment, added to Roosevelt's troubles. After some indecision, he responded with more federal initiatives, but although the WPA expanded to a peak employment of 3.3 million, Congress was in no mood to accept bold new spending programs. By the end of 1938, after the Republicans had regained some of their losses in Congress and strengthened their alliance with conservative Democrats, it was clear that the momentum of the New Deal had spent itself.

While the domestic situation drifted into stalemate, the international outlook worsened and increasingly absorbed the attention of American political leaders. As the tumultuous, tormented decade of the 1930s unfolded, unchecked aggression by fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, and militaristic Japan threatened a new global war. The Western democracies, supposed winners of the World War, seemed befuddled and indecisive. Roosevelt followed developments closely and was keenly aware of the dangers. On several occasions he tried to alert the American public to the threat posed by the aggressive dictatorships, but provoked more resistance than support. The Spanish Civil War (1936–39) was bitterly divisive in the United States, as it was in Europe. Overlooking their part in producing that outcome, many Americans came by various routes to believe that the World War had been a futile waste. From her humanitarian and pacifist perspective, Eleanor Roosevelt leaned toward this point of view. Powerful Congressmen and influential spokesmen like Charles A. Lindbergh rallied a vocal isolationist movement. Roosevelt still towered over the scene during this troubled period when the survival of western civilization seemed to be threatened by economic disaster and the upsurge of dark, irrational

ideologies, and he personified the era both as a target and an inspiration; but he seemed incapable of directing the course of events.

These currents flowed together in the crucial year of 1940. After Germany launched the Second World War by invading Poland in September 1939, a majority of Americans seemed to favor aiding the Western democracies, though remaining adamantly opposed to active participation. The great mystery was whether Roosevelt would defy tradition and seek a third term. Probably he was equally uncertain. There were potent attractions toward retiring to Hyde Park and pursuing his interests in history and managing his estate. He had begun attending to his legacy in 1939, when he transferred a field fronting the Post Road to the federal government for construction of his presidential library, which was dedicated June 30, 1941. In 1938 he designed and largely completed construction of the hilltop retreat east of Val-Kill later known as Top Cottage, where he hoped to escape the crowds that disturbed him at the main house. More than any other building associated with him, this cottage expressed the President's values and needs. Clearly the facilities were in place if he truly wished to devote himself to writing history and other domestic pursuits. If that was indeed his intention, it was shattered by the fall of France to the Nazis in the Spring of 1940. As Britain fought for its life against German aerial and undersea onslaught during the following months, Roosevelt found it difficult to leave his post; moreover, he had failed to anoint a successor. Roosevelt insisted on the appearance of a genuine draft before accepting his party's nomination and also demanded acceptance of Henry Wallace as his running-mate. To help achieve this, he dispatched Eleanor to mollify the restive convention delegates. In a hard-fought campaign FDR won a third term against Wendell Willkie, a charismatic political amateur. Willkie was not an isolationist, which spared the country even more bitter polarization.

During the campaign, Roosevelt courageously pushed a conscription bill through Congress, though it might not have passed without Willkie's approval. Later, the President found creative means of aiding the British, who fought alone until Germany launched a massive unprovoked attack on the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941. Meanwhile, the U.S. seemed powerless to halt Japan's brutal invasion of China. It was only the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines on December 7, 1941, that brought the United States into the war. The surprise attack instantly unified the nation, and Roosevelt, who was at his best in moments of crisis and high drama, expressed the nation's anger and resolve in his "day of infamy" speech. Germany then solved what might have been a tricky problem by gratuitously declaring war on the U.S., just days before its forces suffered their first serious setbacks at the outskirts of Moscow.

Even before Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt had been pushing to make the United States the "Arsenal of Democracy." Now awakened, the vast industrial capacity the country then possessed was harnessed to the war effort. Roosevelt prodded boards and industries to achieve unimagined feats of production. Since small companies were unable to handle immense wartime contracts, the big corporations regained their former position and constructed what was later termed the "military-industrial complex." Unemployment finally disappeared; if anything,

the problem was finding enough skilled workers. With unemployment no longer a concern, Roosevelt, to the distress of his wife and other confirmed New Dealers, seemed to lose interest in social experimentation and modification. Anxious to avoid repeating the disillusion that set in after the previous war, he enunciated lofty principles for which the nation was striving: the Four Freedoms and an international organization, the United Nations, that would be more effective than the League and from which the United States would not shirk its responsibilities.

During these years Eleanor appeared to be her husband's conscience, striving to keep New Deal principles and humanitarian concerns in the foreground, often provoking his annoyance. Many of his wartime decisions have become the subject of intense scrutiny and criticism. He bowed to West Coast hysteria and acquiesced in the relocation of Japanese Americans to concentration camps, although they had displayed no evidence of disloyalty. Intent on prosecuting the war, he seemed largely indifferent to the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, even to the extent of removing or restraining the anti-Jewish, nativist head of the State Department visa office. Unless prodded by Eleanor or by African American leaders, he showed little initiative toward improving the status of blacks. His sympathy toward organized labor had always been limited, and as labor demands sometimes seemed to obstruct the war effort, he seemed even more reserved. Confident that he had the bulk of the black, Jewish, and labor vote in his pocket, he was reluctant to offend southern segregationist congressmen and other powerful interests.

One of the paradoxes of the period is that FDR, profoundly identified with a particular locale, presided over a vast movement of population, as unprecedented numbers of Americans took advantage of wartime opportunities and fluidity to relocate. For Franklin Roosevelt, Hyde Park retained its familiar associations and provided a welcome refuge, although his visits there became increasingly pressured. Until her death in 1941, Sara Delano Roosevelt maintained the estate as a traditional country place, including the gardens around the big house and the Home Farm with its dairy and poultry operations. The war produced jarring contrasts, as harried world leaders discussed strategy amid the bucolic surroundings of Hyde Park, and the need for security brought many physical and operational changes to the estate. In a telling illustration of the tragedy of his last years, Franklin Roosevelt's retreat at Top Cottage, where he hoped to retire to contemplate and write history while overlooking the peaceful hills of Dutchess, was drawn into service as a setting for important meetings. Even after her mother-in-law's death, Eleanor, who said the Big House "never was my home in the sense that I had anything to with the furnishing or running of it," preferred to spend time at Val-Kill.

While trying to the limits of her influence to shape the postwar world, Eleanor Roosevelt contributed to the war effort in a multitude of ways, making arduous journeys to Britain and to visit soldiers in the South Pacific. Wherever she went, her visible human sympathy made an unforgettable impression. Franklin wore himself out filling the extraordinary demands of his office. By 1944, when he won a fourth term, he was desperately ill. People close to the President, as well as the general public and probably the President himself, did

not recognize, or sought to deny, the visual evidence of his decline. On occasion, such as his memorable "Fala" speech during the 1944 campaign, he was able to draw on reserves of energy and show flashes of his old vigor.

Franklin D. Roosevelt died at Warm Springs, Georgia, April 12, 1945, less than three months into his fourth term and in the last month of the war in Europe. The somber train journey, the tearful crowds unashamedly mourning a man they regarded as a friend and protector, inevitably recalled scenes of Lincoln's death 80 years before, at the close of another terrible war. Horses from the Roosevelt stable drew the hearse up from a railroad siding to FDR's chosen burial site in the rose garden. Roosevelt had never been able to reshape the American party structure by translating his personal coalition into a permanent political realignment, or to designate a political heir. In 1944 he had replaced Wallace with Senator Harry Truman, a man he hardly knew. Truman came into office unaware of the atomic bomb project Roosevelt had supported, and which would soon be used to bring the war against Japan to a cataclysmic end.

AFTER 1945

Franklin Roosevelt's death left many of his plans for his estate incomplete, as he did not live to use the library or Top Cottage as he envisioned, or continue his forestry experiments. Expanding on his earlier gift of land for a presidential library, in 1943 FDR gave the adjoining thirty-three acres of Springwood, including the Big House and gardens, to the federal government as a National Historic Site, reserving his family's right to life estate there. His wish that the home and grounds would be preserved as it was in his lifetime has largely been observed. After the family members waived their life rights, the site was transferred to the federal government November 21, 1945. When President Roosevelt's home was opened to the public in 1946, on the first anniversary of his death, the small park staff was hard-pressed to accommodate the long lines of visitors who wanted to touch the life of a man who had been such an important part of their lives.

Presumably preoccupied with larger matters, FDR made no provision for preserving the outlying portions of the estate, which had meant a great deal to him. Perhaps he believed that the income the land might provide could be important to his family. He and Eleanor may have understood that the era of Hudson River estates was drawing to a close, and in 1940 he intervened to ensure that the nearby Vanderbilt Mansion was protected by being included in the National Park System. By 1938 Eleanor recognized that the serene, self-contained way of life in which FDR had grown up, where the stately Hudson seemed to mirror their secure existence, was not as changeless as they had believed. For Eleanor this outcome may not have been entirely a source of regret, as she later observed that "I have never felt in any way interested in a country place just as a country place. I feel that land should produce. . . ."

Upon FDR's death, the lands remaining in his ownership were turned over to trustees (his son John and two lawyers) for disposition. Interpreting their duty as maximization of financial return, the trustees began selling land. While some of the eastern tracts had been in Roosevelt ownership less than ten years, the

Home Farm that had been assembled in the previous century also went on the market. In 1947, however, Eleanor Roosevelt employed the bulk of her own resources to purchase the east half of the estate, 842 acres including the upland farms, Top Cottage, and Val-Kill; and then sold the property to her son Elliott for his planned farm business, in which she became a partner. Raising dairy cows, pigs, chickens and Christmas trees on "Val-Kill Farms," Elliott seemed to be carrying out his mother's dictum that "land should produce." However, in attempting to launch a general farm in Dutchess County at that time, the Roosevelts were battling powerful currents of change, and poor management increased the odds against success.

Eleanor retained a life estate to Val-Kill and continued to reside there after buying out Cook and Dickerman's interests in 1947. As ever, she enjoyed the natural and cultivated charms of that retreat, although she did not maintain the grounds and gardens as meticulously as her former associates had done. Any thoughts she entertained of a quiet retirement there ended when President Truman named her a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. As chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission, she was instrumental in winning acceptance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, always a subject close to her heart, in December 1948. Although she resigned her position after Eisenhower was elected in 1952, she continued to promote the UN and regarded her work with the world organization as her greatest source of satisfaction.

In copious writings and public appearances and later teaching at Brandeis University, she continued to be a strong advocate for humanitarian concerns. Recalling her own difficult childhood, she enjoyed working with young people, especially the disadvantaged. While she refused calls to be a candidate, she used her considerable influence to steer the Democratic Party in a progressive direction. "The only chance the Democratic Party has for election," she declared in 1948, is "to be the liberal party. We cannot be more conservative than the Republicans, so we cannot succeed as conservatives." Her experience in the UN had increased her wariness of Soviet Communism. She was instrumental in founding the Americans for Democratic Action in 1947 as a non-communist liberal alternative, and represented American principles as a roving ambassador. Sensitive to the plight of the remnant of European Jews who survived the Holocaust, she assisted their emigration to Palestine and supported the new state of Israel. To some degree her increasing involvement in international affairs, rather than the domestic concerns that had initially engaged her, replicated Franklin's experience in the presidency. Val-Kill, the one home that was truly her own, came increasingly to reflect Eleanor Roosevelt's personality and principles. People ranging from world leaders such as Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to disadvantaged urban schoolchildren traveled to Val-Kill to spend time with a woman who by the time of her death in 1962 had become recognized as "the First Lady of the World."

Elliot Roosevelt had purchased the Home Farm in 1948 and began extensive commercial and residential development along the Post Road. By the early 1950s, Val-Kill Farms had failed, and Elliot began to sell off land, including Top Cottage where he had lived, to developers, except for the 174-acre parcel

containing Val-Kill. This land was purchased by Elliot's brother, John Roosevelt, and his wife Anne. John resided in the Stone Cottage and divided the former factory into four apartments. Elliot also sold the large tract west of Val-Kill and to the rear of the commercial development along the Post Road, but that land was never developed. Following Eleanor Roosevelt's death, John Roosevelt retained the Val-Kill property until he sold it to developers in 1970. Aside from a small parcel he owned until 1980 in the adjoining housing development, this sale marked the end of Roosevelt family ownership at Hyde Park. Anxious to ensure that the stamp she had placed on Val-Kill remained truly indelible, admirers of Eleanor Roosevelt, both nationally and in the local community, defeated development proposals and won the designation of the property as a National Historic Site in 1977. The organization that emerged from this campaign continued its efforts as Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill (ERVK).

The portion of the Wheeler Place below the main house was purchased by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Foundation and added to the National Historic Site in 1952. At the time efforts were underway to preserve Val-Kill in the early 1970s, additional acreage was added to the Home of FDR National Historic Site, mostly historic Roosevelt estate lands. Mary Newbold Morgan, owner of Bellefield, had purchased the former Rogers land in 1949. Between 1973 and 1975, her son Gerald Morgan gave this land, which FDR had purchased in 1935, along with an adjoining small lot at Crum Elbow Point and Bellefield (two parcels not historically owned by the Roosevelt family), to the National Park Service, altogether amounting to 76 acres. In 1984, the NPS acquired 26 acres of the former Boreel and Kirchner Places west and south of the "Red House" through purchase by the Trust for Public Land. Through the Beaverkill Land Conservancy, the NPS acquired a 35-acre parcel at the southern end of the Kirchner Place, fronting on the Hudson River, in 2002. In the same year, the NPS acquired a restored Top Cottage and surrounding 40 acres through the efforts of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Beaverkill Conservancy. Finally, through the efforts of Scenic Hudson, Inc., the NPS added in 2007 a 334-acre tract between Routes 9 and 9G, which contained a long section of the farm lane that linked Val-Kill and the Home of FDR and thus recovered much of the unity of the estate as it had existed in the Roosevelt era.

Vanderbilt Lands

EARLY HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The Vanderbilt estate traces its origins to John Bard, who purchased the 3,600-acre Fauconnier Grant in 1764 and established "Hyde Park," which became one of the most renowned of the Hudson Valley estates. In 1772 Bard built a house along the east side of the Albany Post Road also known as the "Red House," and a secondary residence across the road known as Bard Cottage. He also maintained a farm, mills, a store, and three boat landings along the Hudson, the southerly one known as Hyde Park Landing and the northerly called Bard's Rock. The estate bordered Crum Elbow Creek to the south, adjoining a small hamlet that later took the name of the estate. In 1799 Bard left the 1,500-acre core of the estate to his son, Samuel. The younger Bard was responsible for establishing the

formal residential grounds, known as the park, on the river side of the Post Road, leaving the land to the east including the "Red House" as the estate farm. He built a mansion on the terrace overlooking the Hudson Valley.

In 1828 David Hosack, a prominent New York physician and botanist, purchased the 700-acre estate. Almost immediately, he brought in Andre Parmentier, a pioneering American landscape gardener of Belgian birth, to lay out the park landscape in the romantic English manner. John Jacob Astor, the wealthiest New Yorker of the time, purchased the south portion of the park, consisting of 108 acres including the mansion, in 1840 as a country place for his daughter and son-in-law, Dorothea and Walter Langdon. In 1845 fire destroyed the Bard-Hosack house, and Langdon soon reconstructed it on the original site. The farm component east of the Post Road was sold separately but was reunited with the park in 1872 through its purchase by the Langdons' son, Walter, Jr. The north portion of the park, comprising 64 acres including Bard Cottage and Bard's Rock, was retained by the Hosack family, who sold it to James Curtis. Curtis developed the property into a country place known as "Torham" and built a large Italian Villa-style mansion on the river terrace. He laid out gardens and a farm complex along the lower flats adjoining the Hudson River Railroad, which had been built in 1851. Torham was sold to Samuel Sexton in 1890 and was subsequently known as the Sexton Tract.

VANDERBILT PERIOD

In 1895, Frederick W. Vanderbilt purchased the Langdon place, comprising the 'park" or "pleasure ground" of 153 acres, and the farm, with 459 acres on the east side of the Post Road. When the existing house proved structurally unsound, he built a new house on the site, designed by Charles F. McKim of the noted McKim, Mead, and White firm. While it emulated the palaces of European nobility, the house contained many modern structural innovations. Similar care was given to the interior, much of which was designed by Stanford White, the leading designer of the age.

Though built rather late in the period, the Hyde Park mansion came to represent the palatial country homes erected by a group of extraordinarily wealthy families. Economic conditions after the Civil War had allowed some individuals to amass wealth on a scale that had not been seen or imagined previously in America, but the origins of the Vanderbilt fortune were established before the war. The founder of the family's wealth and fame was Frederick's grandfather, Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794–1877). An aggressive entrepreneur in a time of boisterous national expansion, Cornelius Vanderbilt won a fortune in steamboating, earning the honorific title Commodore. Rather late in life, especially during and after the financial panic of 1857, he began to invest in railroads and in 1867 formed the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad, which became one of America's mightiest corporations. At his death ten years later, he left a fortune of $100 million, at a time when even skilled workers seldom earned $1000 a year.

The Commodore was a flamboyant character, and subsequent generations of Vanderbilts provided regular fodder for journalists, making them an early

example of celebrity culture. Frederick W. was not at all in that mold; by nature quiet and reserved, he sought to avoid publicity. He also differed from his siblings in having the investment skill to increase greatly the inheritance he received when his father William Henry Vanderbilt died in 1885. Frederick's major act of defiance was to marry Louise Anthony Torrance, a divorced woman 12 years older than him, against his family's wishes.

Unlike the rough-edged Commodore, his descendants placed great value on social acceptance and the attributes of refinement. Their vast wealth was not in itself entirely satisfactory, and America's financial aristocracy tried to assume the tastes and behavior of the hereditary landed families of Western Europe. A cluster of historical factors enabled the wealthiest American families to carry out their lavish plans with few impediments. They benefited from a vast economic disparity between themselves and most of the people who worked for them, and were able to take advantage of the 19th Century's sweeping technological advances. Furthermore, the European nobility they sought to emulate were in many cases having difficulty maintaining their lifestyle, so they were amenable to allowing Americans to marry titles or buy outstanding art objects. These circumstances created an ideal environment for gifted designers like Stanford White, with results that are visible at the Hyde Park.

In the first five years of their ownership, Frederick and Louise oversaw the replacement of nearly every structure on the property. In addition to the mansion, described as a Beaux-Arts interpretation of the Italian Renaissance, they added perimeter walls, gate houses, a coach house, and tree plantations, and erected several secondary residences. Whereas the Commodore had become a boatman to escape the drudgery of farm work, his grandson Frederick rebuilt the farm complex, strove to operate it efficiently, and took pride in the awards his farm received. Despite the massive reconstruction, the Vanderbilts retained the overall organization of the landscape dating back to Parmentier, including the farm/park division, the location of the formal gardens, specimen trees, drives, lawns, and views. In 1905, Frederick Vanderbilt acquired the 64-acre Sexton Tract, including Bard Rock, thus reestablishing the extent of the park as it existed under Bard and Hosack ownership. All of the remaining Sexton buildings were removed except for the boathouse (the mansion had burned down in 1899), and the main drive was restored to the alignment Parmentier had designed.

Hyde Park was one of a number of lavish country places constructed by Vanderbilt heirs, and there was undoubtedly an element of competition among them. Moreover, each family usually owned more than one residence, so that an estate like Hyde Park was occupied only a few months out of the year. Despite his reticence, Frederick undoubtedly relished the prestige gained by owning one of the renowned Hudson River estates and having a private station along the railroad line that was the wellspring of his family's fortune.

For about three decades Frederick and Louise lived the existence of country squires, employing and patronizing many people in the community while maintaining the vast socioeconomic divide. Including the farm, the Vanderbilt estate had more than 60 employees. More studious than his siblings, Frederick had earned a degree in horticulture from the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale and

enjoyed applying his training on the sprawling estate. Louise died in 1926, and Frederick twelve years later. Frederick left the estate to Louise's niece, Mrs. Margaret Van Alen, who decided to dispose of the property. President Franklin D. Roosevelt became interested in preserving the estate, citing its collection of trees, and his influence was a major factor in having the park portion of the estate, including the mansion, transferred to the NPS. The acquisition was approved in 1939, and in July 1940, the property was opened to the public under its current name. In its early years, President Roosevelt found time to intervene repeatedly in details of managing the site. Congress had agreed to the acquisition only on condition that the site could pay for itself, and from 1941 into the mid-1950s a food and souvenir concession operated in the Pavilion. Early in the history of the site, NPS officials decided against acquiring the estate farm, so Mrs. Van Alen sold it. In the years after World War II it was partially developed with suburban housing tracts.

Appendix D: Glossary of Terms

The following glossary includes descriptions of primary historic structures whose names have changed over the years and may cause confusion. It does not include descriptions of all historic buildings.

accessibility—The provision of park programs, facilities, and services in ways that include individuals with disabilities, or makes available to those individuals the same benefits available to persons without disabilities. Accessibility also includes affordability and convenience for diverse populations.

adaptive re-use—The process of adapting an historic structure for a new purpose, while retaining the character-defining features that contribute to the historic significance of the structure.

American Renaissance—Made possible in part by rising industrial fortunes, the American Renaissance (ca. 1880-1914) was an era of renewed national self-confidence marked by an outpouring of artistic patronage and creativity.

archeological resource—Any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities that are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. An archeological resource can yield scientific or humanistic information through research.

archeological site—Any place where there is physical evidence of past human occupation or activity. Physical evidence may consist of artifacts, agricultural terraces and hearths, structures, trash deposits, or alterations of the natural environment by human activity.

Beaux Arts—Denotes the academic neoclassical architectural style that was taught at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. The style was the cumulative product of two and a half centuries of instruction under the authority, first of the Académie royale d'architecture, then, following the Revolution, of the Architecture section of the Académie des Beaux-Arts. The Beaux-Arts style heavily influenced US architecture in the period 1885–1920.

Bellefield—The 24-acre property north of the FDR Home that comprises the former Newbold-Morgan Estate. The main house, built in 1795-96, was expanded in 1909-11 according to the design of McKim, Mead, and White. This property was acquired by the NPS in 1974 and 1975 specifically for use as park headquarters.

best management practices (BMPs)—Practices that apply the most current means and technologies available, not only to comply with mandatory environmental regulations, but also to maintain a superior level of environmental performance. See also *sustainable practices or principles*.

carrying capacity (visitor)—The type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and visitor experience conditions in a park.

Coach House (Vanderbilt Mansion NHS)—A brick structure in Queen Anne style that was built on the Vanderbilt Estate in 1897 to the design of architect Robert H. Robertson. The architect adapted the structure as a garage for automobiles in 1910.

Colonial Revival—The Colonial Revival was an enduring nationalistic movement that established a stronghold during the 1876 United States Centennial celebration and reached a peak from roughly the 1890s through the 1920s. The Colonial Revival style, characterized by both precise replication and free interpretation of colonial precedents, is represented in Hyde Park by furniture made at Val-Kill Industries, FDR's redesign of his family home into a Georgian-revival mansion, and his interest in the Dutch vernacular architectural tradition.

consultation—A discussion, conference, or forum in which advice or information is sought or given, or information or ideas are exchanged. Consultation generally takes place on an informal basis. Formal consultation is conducted for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and with Native Americans.

critical habitat—Specific areas within a geographical area occupied by a threatened or endangered species that contain physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species, and which may require special management considerations or protection; and specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time of its listing, upon a determination by the Secretary of the Interior that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

cultural landscape—A geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person, or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values. There are four non–mutually–exclusive types of cultural landscapes: historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.

cultural resource—An aspect of a cultural system that is valued by or significantly representative of a culture, or that contains significant information about a culture. A cultural resource may be a tangible entity or a cultural practice. For the National Register of Historic Places, tangible cultural resources are categorized as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects; for National Park Service management purposes, they may include archeological resources, cultural landscapes, structures, museum objects, and ethnographic resources.

ecosystem—A system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their physical environment, considered as a unit.

ecosystem management—Management related to the interdependence of natural and cultural systems that integrates scientific knowledge of ecological relationships with resource stewardship practices.

enabling legislation—Laws authorizing units of the national park system.

environmental assessment (EA)—A concise public document prepared by a federal agency to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The document contains sufficient analysis to determine whether the proposed action (1) constitutes a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, thereby requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement, or (2) does not constitute such an action, resulting in a finding of no significant impact being issued by the agency.

environmental impact statement (EIS)—A detailed public statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act when an agency proposes a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The statement includes a detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives, as well as the identification and evaluation of potential impacts of implementing the proposed action or alternatives.

exotic species—Plants or animals that are not indigenous to the area in which they are now living. See *nonnative species*.

the Factory (Val-Kill)—See **Val-Kill Shop** and **Val-Kill Cottage**

Farm Group—The cluster of buildings located to the east of Route 9 that were historically part of the agricultural operation of the Vanderbilt Estate.

The FDR Home (Home of FDR NHS)—The house where FDR was born in 1882, which was built in circa 1793 and enlarged to its present appearance in 1915-16. It is also known as the "Home" and the "Big House," and was formerly referred to as "Springwood" by the NPS. The NPS no longer uses the name "Springwood" in reference to the FDR Home, as this reference was not used by FDR.

formal gardens (Vanderbilt Mansion NHS)—The 4-acre formal gardens at the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The Vanderbilts redesigned and enlarged existing gardens between 1901 and 1934 to form the formal gardens.

general management plan—A National Park Service term for a document that provides clearly defined direction for a park for resource preservation and visitor use over 20 years. It gives a foundation for decision-making and is

developed in consultation with program managers, interested parties, and the general public. Such a plan is based on analysis of resource conditions and visitor experiences, environmental impacts, and costs of alternative courses of action.

Gilded Age—Term coined by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warren's utopian satire by the same title that lends its name to the period stretching from the end of the Civil War (1865) to roughly the end of the 19th Century. The label invokes the wasteful indulgences of the late century's captains of industry, and was not immediately or consistently used by historians. However, by the mid-1950s, historians employed the term in the standardization of American history surveys to designate a period characterized by the larger-than-life personalities of an emerging industrial state.

Historic Roosevelt Family Estate—The estate on the east bank of the Hudson River in Hyde Park purchased by Franklin D. Roosevelt's father James in 1867 and greatly enlarged by FDR. At the time of FDR's death in 1945, the property included a total of 1,522 acres and included the main house and supporting structures, **Top Cottage, Val-Kill**, pleasure grounds, the estate farm known as the **Home Farm,** the rose garden, agricultural fields and orchards, forestry plantations, and natural woodlands with riverfront access. FDR's name for the entire estate was "Krum Elbow," a name that referred to early Dutch settlement of the area.

Also located within the historic estate boundary, but not part of the NHS, are the **Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum** and the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, both operated by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Home Farm (Home of FDR NHS)—The agricultural lands purchased by James Roosevelt located on the east side of the Albany Post Road that included the 183-acre farm component of the old Boorman Place and the agricultural portion of the Boreel Place.

impairment of resources—An impact so severe that, in the professional judgment of a responsible park manager, it would harm the integrity of park resources or values and violate the 1916 National Park Service Organic Act.

implementation—Actions taken to achieve a long-term goal.

implementation plan—A plan to carry out an activity or project to achieve a long-term goal. An implementation plan may direct a specific project or an ongoing activity.

infrastructure—The basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of the park, such as transportation and communications systems and water and power lines.

interpretation—As used in the National Park Service, the explanation to the public of the importance and meaning of NPS resources. Early National Park Service interpretation was referred to as education or nature study; today it includes historical and recreational resources.

interpretive story or interpretive theme—A narrative to help people understand the importance of a national park unit. Interpretive stories or themes express the central meaning of a park's resources.

lightscapes, natural ambient—The state of natural resources and values as they exist in the absence of human-caused light.

management zones—The designation of geographic areas of the park depending on the resource conditions and visitor experiences desired.

management prescriptions—A planning term referring to statements about desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, along with appropriate kinds and levels of management, use, and development for each park area.

mesic—Of, characterized by, or adapted to a moderately moist habitat.

mitigating measures—Modification of a proposal to lessen the intensity of its impact on a particular resource.

museum services facility—An approximately 9,600 square-foot structure located within the Home of FDR National Historic Site on the former James "Rosy" Roosevelt property. The facility provides a secure and controlled environment for the parks' stored collections, as well as research space and offices.

native species—Plants and animals present as a result of natural processes in parks.

natural resources—Collectively, physical resources, such as water, air, soils, topographic features, geologic features, and natural soundscapes; biological resources such as native plants, animals, and communities; and physical and biological processes such as weather and shoreline migration, and photosynthesis, succession, and evolution.

NEPA process—The objective analysis of a proposed action to determine the degree of its environmental impact on the natural and physical environment; alternatives and mitigation that reduce that impact; and the full and candid presentation of the analysis to, and involvement of, the interested and affected public. Required of federal agencies by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

nightscape—See *lightscapes*.

nonnative species—Species that occupy or could occupy parklands directly or indirectly as the result of deliberate or accidental human activities. Also called exotic species.

Organic Act (National Park Service)—The 1916 law (and subsequent amendments) that created the National Park Service and assigned it responsibility to manage the national parks.

palustrine—Relating to a system of inland, nontidal wetlands characterized by the presence of trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation (vegetation that is rooted below water but grows above the surface). Palustrine wetlands range from permanently saturated or flooded land (as in marshes, swamps, and lake shores) to land that is wet only seasonally (as in vernal pools).

partners—Individuals, agencies, and organizations that work with the park on the park's goals.

period of interpretation—The span of time during which events took place that are described in the park's interpretive themes.

period of treatment—The span of time during the period of significance when the property reached its height of development and when it best reflected the characteristics for which it is significant.

period of significance—The span of time during which a property attained the significance that makes it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

preservation—The application of measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a historic structure, landscape, or object. May include preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, but generally refers to the ongoing preservation, maintenance, and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new work. For historic structures, exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

prime and unique farmland Soil that produces general crops such as common foods, forage, fiber, and oil seed.

Progressive Era—In the United States, the Progressive Era was a period of reform that began in America's urban regions lasting from approximately the 1890s through the 1920s, although some experts say it lasted from 1900 to 1920. Reformers sought change in labor and fiscal policies at various levels of government. Many reforms marked the movement, including women's suffrage,

the 19th amendment, and the establishment of an income tax. Eleanor Roosevelt's activities during this era typified Progressivism—she was a member of the National Consumers League, the Women's Trade Union League, the League of Women Voters, and the City Club of New York. An active leader in these groups, Eleanor Roosevelt championed maximum hour, minimum wage, and child labor laws; worker safety standards; and protective legislation for women workers.

rehabilitation—Making possible an efficient, compatible use for a historic structure or landscape through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, and architectural values.

restoration—Accurate depiction of the form, features, and character of a historic structure, landscape, or object as it appeared in a particular historic period by removing features from other periods and reconstructing missing features.

riparian zone—The interface between land and a stream or river. Plant communities along the river margins are called riparian vegetation and are characterized by water-loving plants. Riparian zones are significant in ecology, environmental management, and civil engineering because of their role in soil conservation, their biodiversity, and the influence they have on aquatic ecosystems.

soundscape—Ambient sounds not caused by humans.

Springwood—The NPS uses "Springwood" to refer to the 111-acre portion of the Home of FDR NHS (the Wheeler Place) acquired by FDR's father, which includes the big house and grounds. FDR's parents used the name for their entire estate, corresponding with the lands they owned between the Hudson River and the Maritje Kill, a stream halfway between Routes 9 and 9G.

stakeholder—An individual, group, or other entity that has a strong interest in decisions concerning park resources and values. Stakeholders may include, for example, recreational user groups, permittees, and concessioners. In the broadest sense, all Americans are stakeholders in the national parks.

stewardship—The cultural and natural resource protection ethic of employing the most effective concepts, techniques, equipment, and technology to avoid or mitigate impacts that would compromise the integrity of park resources.

sustainability—The quality of integrating economic, environmental, and equity (health and well-being of society) considerations in decisions so that the Earth's resources are passed on to future generations in a healthy and abundant manner

sustainable design—Design that applies the principles of ecology, economics, and ethics to the business of creating necessary and appropriate places for

people to visit, live, and work. Development that has been sustainably designed sits lightly upon the land, demonstrates resource efficiency, and promotes ecological restoration and integrity, thus improving the environment, the economy, and society.

sustainable practices/principles—Choices, decisions, actions, and ethics that will best achieve ecological/biological integrity; protect qualities and functions of air, water, soil, and other aspects of the natural environment; and preserve human cultures. Sustainable practices allow for use and enjoyment by the current generation, while ensuring that future generations will have the same opportunities.

traditional—Pertains to recognizable, but not necessarily identical, cultural patterns transmitted by a group across at least two generations. Also applies to sites, structures, objects, landscapes, and natural resources associated with those patterns. Popular synonyms include "ancestral" and "customary."

traditionally associated peoples—May include park neighbors, traditional residents, and former residents who remain attached to a park area despite having relocated. Social or cultural entities such as tribes, communities, and kinship units are "traditionally associated" with a particular park when (1) the entity regards park resources as essential to its development and continued identity as a culturally distinct people; (2) the association has endured for at least two generations (40 years); and (3) the association began prior to establishment of the park.

use fees—Charges for an activity or an opportunity provided in addition to basic free park services.

Val-Kill Cottage (Val-Kill)—The term typically used to refer to the converted **Val-Kill Shop** building renovated into a private residence for Eleanor Roosevelt's use after 1937. Although the heading on her printed stationery was "Val-Kill Cottage," on at least one occasion Eleanor Roosevelt referred to this home as "the factory." The National Park Service sometimes refers to this building as **The Factory** to avoid confusion with **Stone Cottage**.

victory garden—Victory gardens, also called war gardens or food gardens for defense, were vegetable, fruit, and herb gardens planted at private residences in the United States, Canada, and United Kingdom during World War I and World War II to reduce the pressure on the public food supply brought on by the war effort. In addition to indirectly aiding the war effort, these gardens were also considered a civil "morale booster," in that gardeners could feel empowered by their contribution of labor and rewarded by the produce grown.

viewshed—The area that can be seen from a particular location, including near and distant views.

visitor—Anyone who uses a park's interpretive, educational, or recreational services.

Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) framework—A visitor carrying capacity planning process applied to determine the desired resource and visitor experience conditions, and used as an aid to decision-making.

wayfinding—The ways in which people and animals orient themselves in physical space and navigate from place to place. Wayfinding is typically used in the context of the built environment to refer to the user experience of orientation and choosing a path, but it also refers to the set of architectural and/or design elements that aid orientation.

Appendix E: Treatment, Use and Condition of Primary Historic Buildings

	Name/ Structure Number	Dates of Construction/ Alteration	Proposed Treatment	Proposed/ Potential Use
Home of FDR National Historic Site *				
1.	FDR Home 101	c.1793, 1867, 1915–16	Preserve	Historic house museum
2.	Laundry 102	c.1850	Preserve	Part of historic scene
3.	Stable (LCS**: Coach House) 103	1886	Preserve	Interpretive exhibits
4.	Small Ice House 104	c.1850	Preserve	Part of historic scene
5.	Garage (LCS: Garage & Stables) 105	c.1850, 1910, 1974 (reconst.)	Rehabilitate	Educational and Interpretive use
6.	Greenhouse 106	1906	Preserve	Park operations; Part of historic scene
7.	Greenhouse Tool House 114	1911; 1997 (stabilized)	Preserve	Park operations; Part of historic scene
8.	Large Ice House 107	1898	Preserve	Part of historic scene
9.	Gardeners Cottage Garage 108	1906, 1916	Preserve	Storage
10.	Gardeners Cottage 109	c.1850	Preserve	Admin space

	Name/ Structure Number	Dates of Construction/ Alteration	Proposed Treatment	Proposed/ Potential Use
11.	Duplex House 110	c.1886	Preserve	Residence
12.	Lower Shed 116	1911	Preserve	Part of historic scene
13.	Pump House 118	1916	Preserve	Part of historic scene
14.	Cold Frame 124	No Record	Preserve	Part of historic scene
15.	Lower Ram House 117B	1881	Preserve	Part of historic scene
16.	Ash Pit 121	No Record	Preserve	Part of historic scene
17.	Hot Bed 120	1933	Preserve	Part of historic scene
18.	Top Cottage (structure number to be determined)	1938–39, 1999–2000 (restored)	Preserve	Guided tours, some conference + meetings; partner events
Bellefield (Headquarters)				
19.	Bellefield Mansion 401	c.1795, 1909–11	Rehabilitate	Park admin Hdq.

	Name/ Structure Number	Dates of Construction/ Alteration	Proposed Treatment	Proposed/ Potential Use
20.	Stone (LCS: New) Garage 402	1916–17	Rehabilitate	Admin
21.	Block (LCS: Old) Garage 404	1905	Rehabilitate	Educational use
22.	Yellow (LCS: Old) Barn 407	1800 1860–1870	Rehabilitate	Educational use
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site				
1.	Val-Kill Cottage (LCS: The Factory) 501	1926, 1936–37, 1981	Preserve	Historic house museum; visitor contact; museum shop
2.	Stone Cottage 502	1925–26	Rehabilitate	Tours + exhibits
3.	Dollhouse 504	1935, 1945 (moved)	Preserve	Exterior interpreted
4.	Playhouse 505	1928–1941	Preserve	Interpretive exhibits; theater
5.	Stable-Garage 506	1937	Rehabilitate	Interpretive exhibits; maintenance
6.	East Garden Shed 507	1937; 1963 (altered)	Rehabilitate	Part of historic scene and to support Memorial
7.	West Garden Shed 508	1940	Rehabilitate	Part of historic scene and to support Memorial
Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site				
1.	Vanderbilt Mansion 001	1896–1899	Preserve	Historic house museum; possible fee-generating special use
2.	The Pavilion 002	1895	Preserve	Visitor contact; museum shop; interpretive use; admin

	Name/ Structure Number	Dates of Construction/ Alteration	Proposed Treatment	Proposed/ Potential Use
3.	Gardeners Cottage 003	1875	Preserve	Residence
4.	Tool House 004		Preserve	Part of historic scene; partner use
5.	Coach House 005	1897, 1910	Rehabilitate	Exhibits; Adaptive reuse
6.	Main (LCS: Upper) Gate House 006	1898	Preserve	Residence
7.	Lower Gate House 007	1898	Preserve	Residence
8.	Power House 008	1897	Preserve	Exterior interpreted
9.	Loggia (LCS: Garden House) 011	1910	Preserve	Part of historic scene
10.	Large Pergola (LCS: Pool House) 012	1903; 1982 (restored)	Preserve	Part of historic scene
11.	Small Pergolas 014	1903; 1922 (altered); 1982 (restored)	Preserve	Part of historic scene
12.	Cold Frames 013	1900	Preserve	Part of historic scene
13.	Potting Shed 010	1874; 1982 (restored)	Preserve	Part of historic scene; partner use

* Several buildings are not listed here because they are not considered to be primary historic buildings according to the NPS "Asset Priority Index," a system for evaluating NPS properties in relation to a park's mission. All are within the Home of FDR NHS: Cinder Block Dairy Barn (non-historic); Pump House Storage; Water Tower; Chauffeur's Building; Bellefield Cold Frames; Boiler House; and Stone House.

** The List of Classified Structures (LCS) is the NPS official inventory of structures that are either on or have been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Structure names used by the LCS are referenced in parenthesis if they differ from those used in the GMP.

Appendix F: Visitor Experience & Resource Protection (Carrying Capacity)

The Process

One of the requirements of a general management plan is the identification and implementation of commitments for carrying capacity. To comply with this mandate, a process known as visitor experience and resource protection has been developed within the National Park Service. This process interprets carrying capacity not as a prescription of numbers of people, but as a prescription of desired ecological and social conditions. Measures of appropriate conditions replace measures of maximum sustainable use. Based on these conditions, the process identifies and documents the kinds and levels of use that are appropriate as well as where and when such uses should occur. The prescriptions, coupled with a monitoring program, are intended to give park managers the information and rationale needed to make sound decisions about visitor use and to gain the public and agency support needed to implement those decisions. A major premise of the visitor experience and resource protection process is that the characteristics of a management area, which are qualitative in nature, must be translated into something measurable to provide a basis for making wise decisions about appropriate visitor use. Since management actions are normally more defensible when based on scientific data, the process incorporates the concept of "limits of acceptable change" as part of the decision-making process. Desired resource or social conditions are expressed as explicit, measurable indicators; and standards (i.e., minimum acceptable conditions) are selected to determine whether the conditions are met or exceeded.

Resource indicators are used to measure impacts on the biological or physical resources, while social indicators are used to measure impacts on park users and park employees. The first critical steps of applying the visitor- experience- and resource-protection process to Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites have been accomplished as part of the general management plan.

These steps are:

- Develop statements articulating park purpose and significance.
- Analyze park resources and existing visitor use.
- Describe the range of resource conditions and visitor experiences for the parks as distinct management areas.
- Apply the management areas to specific locations of the parks.

Subsequent to the preparation of the general management plan, the following steps will be taken to complete the process:

- Select quality indicators and specify associated standards for each management area. The purpose of this step is to identify measurable physical, social, or ecological variables that will indicate whether a desired condition is being met. Monitoring techniques for each management area are also selected and evaluated in this step.

- Compare desired conditions to existing conditions. Each management area will be monitored to identify any discrepancies with the desired resource and social conditions.
- Identify the probable causes of discrepancies in each management area.
- Identify management strategies to address discrepancies. Visitor use management prescriptions will start with the least restrictive measures that will accomplish the objective and move toward more restrictive measures, if needed.
- Carry out long-term monitoring. Monitoring provides periodic, systematic feedback to park managers to ensure that desired resource and visitor experience conditions continue to be achieved over the long term.

Once the indicators and standards are established, park managers can develop a monitoring plan to determine priorities and identify methods, staffing, and analysis requirements. The results of the monitoring analysis will enable park managers to determine whether a park's resources are being adequately protected and desired visitor experiences are being provided, and to take management actions necessary to achieve the goals of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites.

Examples of Indicators and Standards

The planning team developed the following examples of resource indicators and standards. These examples are preliminary and will be reviewed and revised by resource managers, based on the relative tolerance for resource impacts and judgment about the minimum conditions needed to maintain the desired experience.

Historic Core Zone

Example Resource Condition Standard: No historic structures, no designed landscapes, and no displayed collections are lost or damaged due to excessive or unauthorized use.

Example Resource Condition Indicator: Degradation of historic buildings, displayed collections, and/or cultural landscapes caused by excessive or unauthorized visitor use.

Example Social Condition Standard: No more than 10% of visitors will experience crowding that prevents satisfying participation in interpretive activities or programs.

Example Social Condition Indicator: The number of times per year that visitors experience excessive crowding during tours, programs, or participatory activities.

Cultural Landscape Preservation Zone

Example Resource Condition Standard: No additional natural areas or cultural

landscapes are significantly trampled or eroded, with no new personal or unauthorized trails opened.

Example Resource Condition Indicator: Degradation of cultural and/or natural resources caused by excessive or unauthorized visitor use, such as off-trail hiking or use of all-terrain-vehicles.

Example Social Condition Standard: No more than 10% of visitors will experience crowding to a degree that prevents them from enjoying their landscape experience or will encounter visitors engaged in unauthorized uses.

Example Social Condition Indicator: The percentage of visitors per year who experience excessive crowding on trails or encounter visitors engaged in unauthorized uses.

Park Support Zone

Example Resource Condition Standard: No new cultural landscape areas are eroded or substantially damaged.

Example Resource Condition Indicator: Substantial degradation of natural resources and/or cultural resources caused by unauthorized or excessive visitor use, such as frequent overflow parking on park lawns.

Example Social Condition Standard: Visitors will experience overflow conditions no more than 20 days per year.

Example Social Condition Indicator: The number of days per year that visitors encounter overflow parking sufficient to impair their enjoyment of the parks.

Appendix G: Section 106 Compliance Requirements for Future Undertakings

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies with direct or indirect jurisdiction take into account the effect of undertakings on National Register listed or eligible properties and allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment. Toward that end, the NPS will work with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council to meet requirements of 36 CFR 800 and the November 2008 Programmatic Agreement among the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the NPS (Department of the Interior). This latter agreement requires the NPS to work closely with the SHPO and the ACHP in planning for both new and existing national park areas.

Prior to any ground-disturbing action by park managers, a professional archeologist will determine the need for archeological activity or testing evaluation. Any such studies would be carried out in advance of construction activity and would meet the needs of the State Historic Preservation Office. Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the National Park Service to identify and nominate to the National Register of Historic Places all resources under its jurisdiction that appear to be eligible. Historic areas of the national park system are automatically listed on the National Register upon their establishment by law or executive order.

The following table identifies future actions that would likely require review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and under the Programmatic Agreement, and the nature of the review.

Potential Actions Requiring SHPO / ACHP Review
Expand views
Rehabilitate designed landscapes and indicate missing features through new elements of similar massing/scale or media
Retain Eleanor Roosevelt Cutting Garden as Memorial, rehabilitate garden and develop commemorative program
Actively manage forest plantations with range of treatments
Actively manage natural woodlands with range of treatments
Rehabilitate former farm fields with some returned to agricultural use
Rehabilitate historic roads and trails
Develop new trail segments to support visitor access and interpretation
Rehabilitate/adaptively re-use Vanderbilt Coach House
Rehabilitate buildings for interpretive and educational purposes
Develop new maintenance facility
Upgrade Bellefield to better support park uses

Section VI-G of the Programmatic Agreement requires that general management plans include a statement about the status of the parks' cultural resources inventory and that the statement indicate needs for additional cultural resource information, plans, or studies required before undertakings can be carried out.

The following plans and studies relating to cultural resources have been identified as necessary to support the implementation of proposals made in this document. Some of these are underway. This list may be expanded or otherwise modified as the specific requirements for individual projects become better defined:

- Archeological studies and investigations
- Historic structures reports for the main residences and cottages, Bellefield and its outbuildings
- Historic furnishings plans for the main residences
- Collections management plans and scope of collections statements
- A viewshed management plan to guide removal and treatment of vegetation for viewshed management purposes
- A forest management plan to guide treatment of the forest plantations, the natural woodlands, and to address diseased and dying trees
- An agricultural management plan to guide the use and treatment of agricultural properties
- Cultural landscape treatment and preservation maintenance plans for the designed landscapes
- An historic resource study and treatment plan to guide treatment for historic roads and trails along with a multi-use trail master plan

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Bonnie Kriscka: 31, left, 2nd from top and right, 2nd from top.

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Daphne Geismar: 55.

J. Meehan: 31, left, 2nd from bottom.

Mary B. Summerlin: 31, top right.

Matthew Garrett: Cover; title page images (except historic photos and Top Cottage); 6; 7, bottom; 11, top; 15, top and bottom; 17, bottom; 19, top and bottom; 23, bottom; 32; 41, top and bottom; 42; 44; 46, top; 47; 49, top and middle; 52, top and bottom.

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Hugh Duffy: 57, bottom.
John Auwaerter: 46, middle.
Marjorie Smith: 20, bottom; 21, top; 25, bottom.
W.D. Urbin: Title page image of Top Cottage; 7, top; 11, bottom; 15, 2nd from top and 2nd from bottom; 19, 2nd from bottom; 21, middle and bottom; 22, top and middle; 24, top; 40; 41, middle; 43; 46, bottom; 50, top; 57, top; 60; 61.

National Park Service Historic Photograph Collection, Harpers Ferry Center, photographer, Abbie Rowe: 22, bottom.

National Park Service Historic Photograph Collection, Harpers Ferry Center, photographer unknown: 34, bottom; 36, middle; 38, bottom right.

Richard Cheek: 17, top; 19, 2nd from top; 48.

Roger D. McKnight: 31, bottom left and 2nd from bottom right.

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites Collection: 37, top; 38, top left and top right.

William F. Bogle, Jr.: 31, top left and bottom right.