

*Home of*  
**FRANKLIN D.**  
**ROOSEVELT**



**NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

*Hyde Park, N. Y.*

Home of

Franklin Roosevelt

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

THE ONLY LIMIT TO OUR REALIZATION OF TOMORROW WILL BE OUR DOUBTS OF TODAY. LET US MOVE FORWARD WITH STRONG AND ACTIVE FAITH.

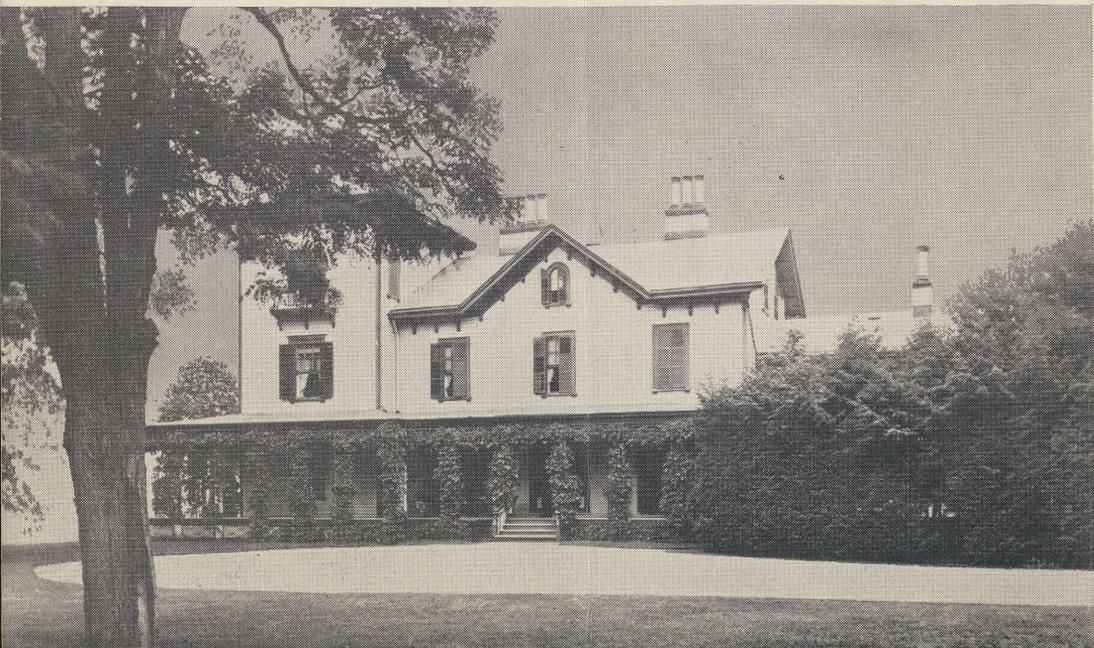
*From an undelivered address written by Franklin D. Roosevelt the day before his death.*

**I**N THIS HOME in Hyde Park, Franklin D. Roosevelt was born on January 30, 1882, and here he was reared. To its familiar ancestral surroundings he frequently returned for relaxation and refreshment from the turmoil of public life. He was buried here in the family rose garden on April 15, 1945.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the only son of James and Sara Roosevelt, who were married in 1880. They occupied this home over-

looking the Hudson River, and the boy grew up on its beautiful banks. Here he played and learned the lore of the woods and fields until he was old enough to go away to school. In this home, after his marriage to his distant cousin and childhood playmate, Eleanor, their children also grew up, while he embarked on his remarkable public career. It was from this district that he first campaigned successfully for office, and from 1911 to 1913 repre-

*The Roosevelt home substantially as it appeared in 1882 when Franklin D. Roosevelt was born.*



## *The Home*

At the edge of a gently rolling plateau overlooking the Hudson River there had been built, about 1826, a clapboard frame house. It was this building that was purchased by James Roosevelt in 1867 and thus it became the birthplace and home of his son, Franklin.

The home underwent many changes with the passing of the years, for it is a product of many renovations and additions. The old central portion, its clapboards removed, is covered with stucco and is fronted by a porch with a sweeping balustrade and a small colonnaded portico. On each end, a two-story wing has been erected, giving the whole structure an H-shape. By 1915, it assumed its present characteristics, and, in accordance with the late President's wishes, no further changes will be made.

When the King and Queen of England and other guests were entertained at Hyde Park, they found themselves in a comfortable American home filled with the small treasures and knick-knacks so dear to the hearts of all family groups.

### *FIRST FLOOR*

**FRONT HALL.** The interests and way of life of the family are evident immediately upon entering the large rectangular front hall. This room is dominated by a few large pieces of furniture, and the walls are covered with pictures, most of them naval prints. Directly to the left of the entrance-way stands a massive oak wardrobe and immediately before the door, an 18th-century grandfather clock. Both of these pieces were purchased in the Netherlands by James and Sara Roosevelt while on their wedding trip in 1881.

Against the wall, just to the left of the clock, stands a large sideboard that was acquired by James Roosevelt in Italy in 1869. In the southeast corner of the hall stands a life-sized bronze statue of Franklin D. Roosevelt at the age of 29, done by Prince Paul Troubetzkoy in 1911. Directly behind the statue is a wall case that holds many of the birds which Franklin collected as a boy of eleven.



*The Front Porch.*

sented his neighbors as New York State senator. He was Assistant Secretary of the Navy from 1913 to 1920, at which time he set forth from Hyde Park to campaign unsuccessfully for the Vice Presidency of the United States. To this home he came often while waging his long fight to conquer the infantile paralysis contracted in 1921. Here he greeted his neighbors in 1928 and 1930 after he was twice elected Governor of New York. During his three successive terms as the thirty-second President of the United States and for part of a fourth term, Hyde Park remained his family home. In accordance with his expressed wish, his body was returned for burial here, following his sudden death at Warm Springs, Ga., on April 12, 1945.

At Hyde Park the American people now may visit his family home and the surroundings in which he chose to live.

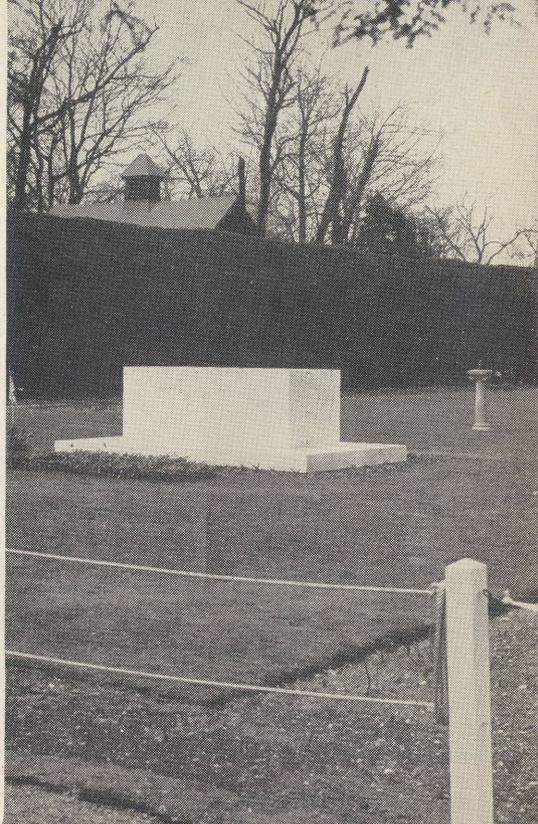
LIVING ROOM. The south hallway leads past the "Snuggery," Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt's writing and sitting room, to the large living room, which occupies the whole lower floor of the south wing. In this cheerful and spacious room the family met, played, read, and entertained.

The two fireplace portraits are of Roosevelt ancestors; that at the left end of the room is a Gilbert Stuart portrait of Isaac Roosevelt, the President's great-great-grandfather, who was active in the Revolutionary War, a member of the State constitutional convention, a State senator, and a member of the State convention called to ratify the Constitution of the United States. Over the fireplace to the right, is a portrait of Franklin's great-grandfather, James Roosevelt, who was a New York City merchant, a State assemblyman, an alderman, and the first of the family to settle in Dutchess County in 1819.

The large portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt was painted at Hyde Park in 1932 by Ellen Emmett Rand. The two highback leather chairs at the left end of the room were Mr. Roosevelt's when he was Governor of New York. He always sat in the one on the left.

DRESDEN ROOM. The "Dresden Room," a light and elaborate formal parlor, takes its name from the delicately wrought Dresden chandelier and mantel set that James Roosevelt purchased in Germany in 1866. The rug is an Aubusson. The floral drapes and matching upholstery were hung in 1939, shortly before the visit of the King and Queen of England. The various Chinese ornaments were collected by Mrs. James Roosevelt's family.

DINING ROOM. The dining room is dominated by heavy, dark pieces of furniture. The oak dining-room table is now set permanently for two but when the family lived here, the table was often extended with table leaves and could seat 20 people comfortably. The large walnut sideboard to the left of the alcove was purchased by James Roosevelt in Italy in 1869. The large oak sideboard on the right was brought back from the Netherlands by James and Sara Roosevelt in 1881.



*The Grave and Monument.*

## SECOND FLOOR

BOYHOOD BEDROOM. On the second floor there is the same evidence of livable attributes. The small bedroom that was used by Franklin as a boy, the guest rooms, occupied at various times by the many notables who visited the Roosevelts, and the room in which Franklin was born are situated along the hallway dividing the old central section of the house.

F. D. R. BEDROOM. At the end of the hallway, in the stone wing over the living room, is the bedroom of Franklin D. Roosevelt. After his attack of infantile paralysis in 1921, this bedroom became a great favorite with him, for from it he had a sweeping view of the Hudson River. Here Mr. Roosevelt surrounded himself with his favorite pictures, naval prints, and family photographs. On Fala's own chair are the Scottie's leash and blanket. Scattered about the room are the books and magazines

that were here at the time of the President's last visit to Hyde Park in March 1945.

### *The Grave*

A small garden northeast of the Home, almost completely surrounded by a century-old hemlock hedge, was chosen by Franklin D. Roosevelt as his burial place. Here, on April 15, 1945, he was laid to rest in the southern section of a large rectangular grass plot with a border of perennial flowers. The "Rose Garden," as the President and his family knew it, derived its name from the roses that fill the eastern half. A rose garden was traditional with the family, for the surname Roosevelt was adopted from the Dutch "field of roses" in the ancestral land and perpetuated in the family coat of arms, three roses on a shield, surmounted by a casque and three feathers.

A white marble tombstone, with a slight trace of color high-lighting its natural beauty,

has been placed immediately north of the grave. Known as "Imperial Danby," it is from the quarry in Vermont that produced the marble for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington. Plans for the tombstone were drawn by President Roosevelt himself in a memorandum dated December 26, 1937. The exact text of the note, containing instructions which have been followed explicitly, reads:

That a plain white marble monument—no carving or decoration—to be placed over my grave, east and west, as follows: Length, 8 feet; width, 4 feet; height, 3 feet. The whole to be set on marble base extending 2 feet out from the monument all around—but said base to be no more than 6 inches above the ground.

It is my hope that my dear wife will on her death be buried there also, and that the monument contain no device or inscription except the following on the south side:

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT  
1882 · 19-

ANNA ELEANOR ROOSEVELT  
1884 · 19-

*East end of the living room showing the Gilbert Stuart portrait of Isaac Roosevelt.*



## *The Site*

The home of Franklin D. Roosevelt was designated a national historic site, January 15, 1944, pursuant to a Joint Resolution of Congress, July 18, 1939. The site, a gift of President Roosevelt, then consisted of 33.23 acres surrounding the home, adjacent outbuildings, and the grave site. Members of the Roosevelt family retained life interests in the house and grounds. The Secretary of the Interior accepted full title to the area November 21, 1945, after the death of the President when Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and her children waived their life interests. On December 29, 1952, the 60.46 acres of land between the house and the river were presented as a gift by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Foundation to be made part of the site. The site now contains 93.69 acres.

The home was formally opened to visitors with dedication ceremonies on April 12, 1946, the first anniversary of the President's death.

## *Travel Routes to the Site*

The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site is on the New York-Albany Post Road (U. S. 9), 2 miles south of Hyde Park, N. Y., and 4 miles north of Poughkeepsie. From New York City, 80 miles distant, you can reach the site most conveniently by automobile over the Hendrick Hudson Parkway, the Saw Mill River Parkway, and the Taconic State Parkway. Approaches from the west side of the Hudson River are by the Mid-Hudson Bridge at Poughkeepsie or the Rip Van Winkle Bridge at Catskill. Railroad connections can be made on the New York Central at Poughkeepsie.

## *About Your Visit*

The site is open daily, except Monday, from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m. Uniformed members of the park staff will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

*The Reception Room, or the "Dresden Room."*





*Franklin D. Roosevelt's Bedroom.*

Adjacent to the historic site is the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library administered by the Archivist of the United States. It contains the papers, books, and other historical material of the President. You may visit the museum section of the library from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. In the museum are many pictures, models, and art objects acquired by Mr. Roosevelt throughout the years.

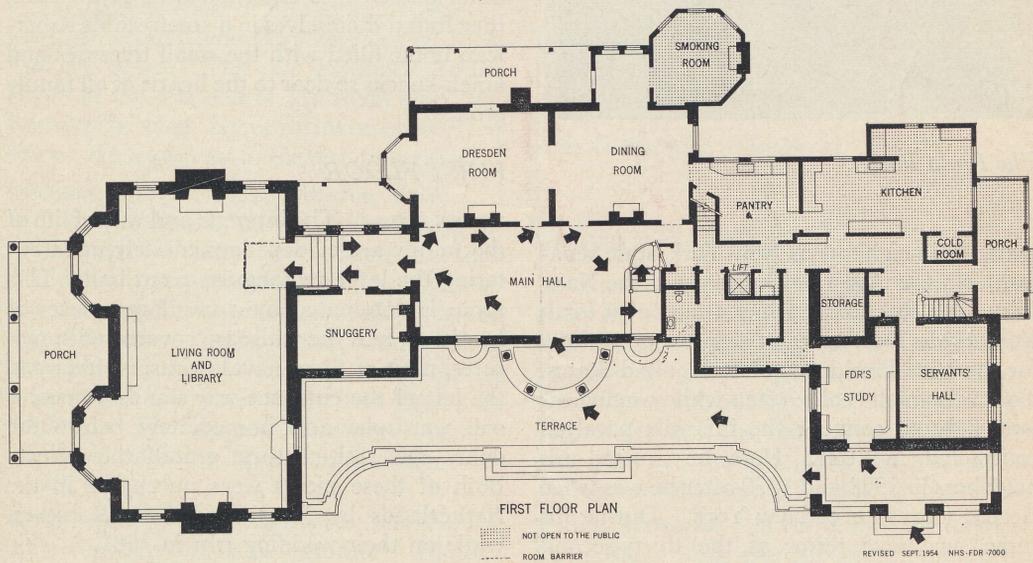
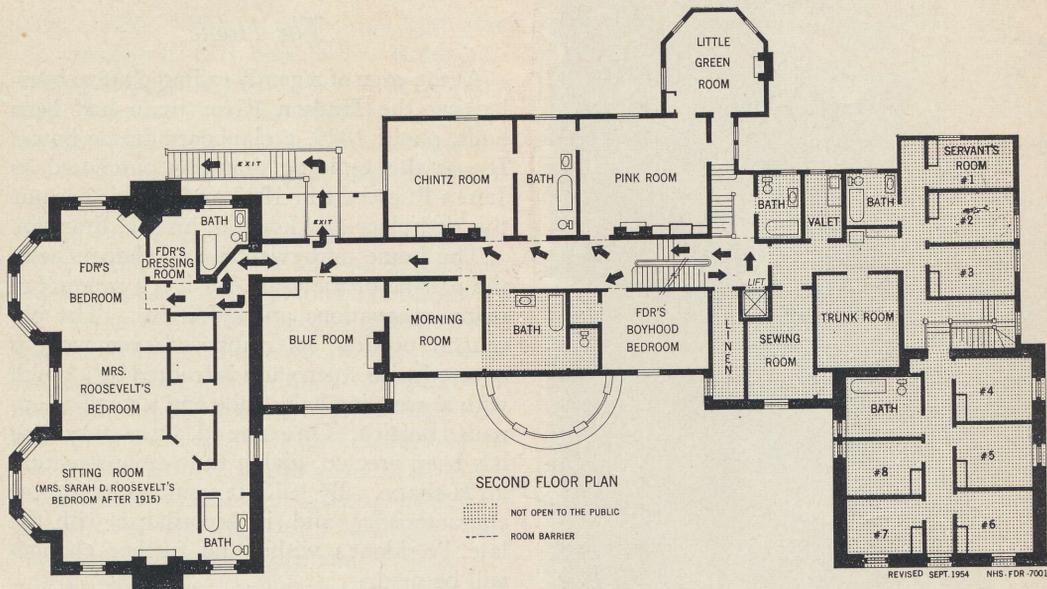
There is a charge of 25 cents for adults at the home and also at the library-museum. Children under 12 years of age or groups of school children 18 years of age or under, when accompanied by adults assuming responsibility for their safety and orderly conduct, are admitted free.

VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, entrance gate just north of the town of Hyde Park on U. S. 9, is administered jointly with this site. The impressive Vanderbilt Mansion, together with more than 211 acres of grounds, is open daily, except Monday, from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

### *Administration*

The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Hyde Park, N. Y., is in immediate charge.

*The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.*



## United States Department of the Interior

Fred A. Seaton, Secretary

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • CONRAD L. WIRTH, *Director*

