



ABOUT YOUR VISIT: Sagamore Hill is at the end of Cove Neck Road, Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y., and can be reached by the Long Island Railroad from New York City's Pennsylvania Station at Seventh Ave. and 33d St. Taxis meet all trains. If you choose to travel by car, the easiest route is over the Long Island Expressway to exit 41N (NY Route 106). Take this road north toward Oyster Bay and follow the signs to Sagamore Hill. Please check with the park staff for days and hours of operation. Call (516) 922-4447. The rights of property owners around Sagamore Hill must be respected; please do not climb fences or walk beyond the site boundaries.

A WORD ON SAFETY: Poison ivy is common in the area; please keep to the established paths and walkways. Pets running loose are bothersome to everyone; carry or keep your pet leashed. Heat exhaustion is not uncommon in the summer, so please judge your limits. Many park fences are historic and their age makes them unsafe for climbing. First aid is available at all buildings.

Access to the Theodore Roosevelt Home is through guided tours only. We recommend that visitors arrive early during the spring and summer months.

SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
The park, which is located in Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The superintendent's address is 20 Sagamore Hill Road, Oyster Bay, NY 11771.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

sagamore hill

"There could be no healthier and pleasanter place in which to bring up children than in that nook of old-time America around Sagamore Hill. Certainly I never knew small people to have a better time or a better training for their work in afterlife than . . . at Sagamore Hill."

Sagamore Hill was built by Theodore Roosevelt during 1884 and 1885 and remained his permanent home the rest of his life. After its completion, the young Roosevelt moved in with his sister, Anna, and his daughter, Alice. His first wife, Alice Lee, had died only hours after their daughter was born. In December 1886 Roosevelt married Edith Kermit Carow, a childhood friend. The following spring they arrived at Sagamore Hill, and here, except for absences imposed by his public career, the Roosevelts spent the rest of their lives. Here were born three of their five children: Theodore, Jr., Kermit, and Ethel. Here to the "Summer White House" came national and international figures from every walk of life. Here on January 6, 1919, Theodore Roosevelt died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 60; and here Edith Roosevelt lived until her death in 1948 at the age of 87.

"I had perfectly definite views what I wished in inside matters, what I desired to live in and with; I arranged all this, so as to get what I desired in so far as my money permitted; [the architects] put on the outside cover with but little help from me. I wished a big piazza . . . where we could sit in rocking chairs and look at the sunset; a library with a shallow bay window looking south, the parlor or drawing room occupying all the western end of the lower floor . . . big fireplaces for logs. . . . I had to live inside and not outside the house, and while I should have liked to express myself in both, as I had to choose, I chose the former."

THE HOUSE ON COVE NECK: When Roosevelt was 15, his father established the family's summer residence at Oyster Bay, and the boy spent his vacations exploring the fields and woodlands on Cove Neck. Three years after graduating from Harvard, young Roosevelt purchased the hill on Cove Neck where his home now stands. A barn was the only building on the tree-barren hill. For this property he paid \$10,000 in cash and assumed a 20-year mortgage for the \$20,000 balance. The total area of the property was 63 hectares (155 acres), of which he kept 38 (95), selling the rest to relatives.

The New York architectural firm of Lamb and Rich drew up the plans for the home, but before the final agreement for its construction was signed, Theodore's wife and mother died on the same day in their New York City home. Determined to have a suitable home for his infant daughter, Roosevelt contracted with John A. Wood & Son of Lawrence, Long Island, to build for \$16,975 the house that was to become known as Sagamore Hill.

Roosevelt had originally planned to name the property "Leeholm," for his first wife. But within two years he had begun seeing Edith Kermit Carow. He soon called the estate "Sagamore Hill . . . from the old Sagamore Mohannis, who as Chief of his little tribe, signed away his rights to the land."

"After all, fond as I am of the White House and much though I have appreciated these years in it, there isn't any place in the world like home—like Sagamore Hill, where things are our own, with our own associations. . . ."

