

Opened to the public as a museum in 1966, Old Orchard contains three permanent exhibit areas, a gallery for temporary exhibitions, and a projection room on the first floor. Administrative offices are located on the second floor.

The largest of the three permanent exhibit areas is devoted to Theodore Roosevelt's public life. The exhibits illustrate the course of his public career from his election to the New York State Assembly in 1881, through his years as Governor and President, to his death in 1919. In an adjoining room are exhibits dealing with family life at Sagamore Hill, the history and management of the estate, Sagamore Hill as the "Summer White House," and Edith Kermit Roosevelt. A third area contains exhibits dedicated to the six Roosevelt children: Alice, Theodore Jr., Kermit, Ethel, Archibald, and Quentin.

Old Orchard also contains Sagamore Hill's collection of television documentaries and biographical programs as well as several silent motion pictures produced by the Theodore Roosevelt Association in the 1920's. Film programs are shown on a regular schedule all year.

A small library of books and pamphlets by and about President Theodore Roosevelt is available to researchers by appointment.

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 Cove Neck Road, Box 304, 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

Brochure designed by Roger Whitehouse

sagamore hill old orchard museum



Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. built the house they called Old Orchard in 1937-1938.

“It had always been the family plan for Ted eventually to inherit Sagamore Hill,” wrote Mrs. TR Jr. In her memoir *Day Before Yesterday*, “but by 1937 we had been married twenty-seven years and were tired of living here and there in rented houses.” Together, they decided to build a home of their own in the old apple orchard on the Sagamore Hill property.

Theodore Jr. lived at Old Orchard for only three years. Seeing that war was inevitable, he applied for active duty with the U.S. Army early in 1941. In April he assumed command of the 26th Infantry, 1st Division with the rank of Colonel. Eight months later he was promoted to Brigadier General and made Deputy Commander, 1st Division. During the

war he led a combat team at Oran, participated in the invasion of Sicily, and landed on Utah Beach with the first assault wave on D-Day. Exactly five weeks later, on July 12, 1944, he died of battle exhaustion. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for “his seasoned, precise, calm and unflinching leadership” on the beach at Normandy.

Mrs. TR Jr. lived at Old Orchard for the remainder of her life. Following the death of her son Quentin in 1948, his wife Frances Webb Roosevelt and her three daughters also came to live at Old Orchard. After Mrs. TR Jr.’s death in 1960, the Theodore Roosevelt Association purchased the house and presented it to the American people in 1963 as part of the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site.