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**WILLIAM
HOWARD
TAFT**

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ● OHIO

master plan



**WILLIAM
HOWARD
TAFT**

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ● OHIO

RECOMMENDED John W. Bright
Chief, Office of Environmental Planning and Design
February 18, 1970

APPROVED Lemuel A. Garrison
Director, Northeast Regional Office
February 18, 1970

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The William Howard Taft Memorial Association began its efforts to acquire and restore the Cincinnati birthplace and boyhood home of William Howard Taft in the early 1930's. In 1963, the Association leased part of the house and began restoration. In 1968, the Association acquired fee title to the property.

The Taft home was found eligible for Registered National Landmark status in 1963, and shortly thereafter, the Memorial Association began working to have the property made a National Historic Site. A study of alternatives was prepared, and in April 1968, the Secretary's Advisory Board recommended that the property be established as a National Historic Site. A master plan was prepared based upon an analysis of the study of alternatives and was presented to Congress. Subsequently, legislation was enacted and this master plan was revised to reflect the Act and accordingly becomes the basis for National Park Service management of the area.

This plan establishes general guides for management, public use, and development of the proposed William Howard Taft National Historic Site. It recommends acquiring by donation or purchase with donated funds, the 0.5 acre William Howard Taft House and an adjacent 0.28 acres of privately owned land and proposes development of visitor parking on the latter parcel. It establishes an interpretive theme embracing both Taft's boyhood in this house and his adult accomplishments, and outlines methods and requirements for presenting this theme effectively. It provides for restoring the grounds, and for protecting the setting of the house. Further, it recommends a number of special programs for schools, for youths of adjacent Hamilton County Juvenile Court and Detention Home, and for local patriotic and civic groups.

The purpose of the proposed William Howard Taft National Historic Site is to preserve the birthplace and boyhood home of this distinguished American statesman, and through it to give visitors an understanding of the environment that shaped Taft's character and philosophy, and the impact of this character and philosophy in shaping Taft's public career.



To achieve this purpose, the National Park Service will work toward the following objectives:

1. Interpretive Theme:

To communicate effectively the story of William Howard Taft's life here, and the role of this total environment in molding his character and philosophy, thereby shaping his career and accomplishments in public service.

2. Interpretive Method:

To base interpretation upon the historic structure itself for the purpose of providing the visual setting and the intangible climate of family in which the future President was brought up, and to achieve interpretation of the life and importance of William Howard Taft through a combination of interpretive media—historic house museum, audio-visual program, publications, historic literature, and site markers.

3. Provision of Facilities:

To provide only those interpretive and operational facilities required for effective communication of the story and site management, including visitor parking, relying on the adjacent community to provide all other visitor services.

4. School Programs:

To work with school systems in Cincinnati and its vicinity in preparing special school programs using the Site as a teaching aid integrated with the curriculum.

5. Local Community Relations:

To cooperate with such neighbors as the Hamilton County Juvenile Court and the Mount Auburn Community Council in joint efforts to maintain and improve the community.

6. Research:

To base all Site programs on data provided by historical, archeological and architectural research, building upon the research already conducted by the Taft Memorial Association.

7. Restoration:

To restore the exterior of the William Howard Taft house, limiting interior restoration to that needed to support effective interpretation and suggest the 19th Century decor.

8. Resource Management:

To manage the Taft house and grounds so as to preserve surviving historic features and contribute to neighborhood improvement.

9. Extended Use:

To encourage, insofar as funds and staff permit, off-season and off-hour use of the Taft home and its facilities by patriotic and civic groups.

10. Scope of Collections:

To seek and acquire objects used in the house during the Taft-family occupancy, antiques or reproductions needed for refurbishing, and other objects required for effective interpretation.

REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND ANALYSIS



Cincinnati ranks 21st in size among American cities, with a 1960 urbanized area population of 1,071,624 and a growth rate of 18.5 per cent between 1950 and 1960. In addition to an excellent park system, the city has such attractions as the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History and the Krohn Conservatory and Garden, all in Eden Park; a zoo; the Taft Museum with its collection of European and American paintings, French enamels, Chinese porcelains and American furniture; the 1804 Kemper loghouse; and the Harriet Beecher Stowe House.

The city is readily accessible by air, rail, interstate bus, and by private car over a net work of Interstate and United States highways. Access to the site from within the city is by an intricacy busline or by car over congested city streets. When completed, the proposed Dorchester Street interchange of Interstate

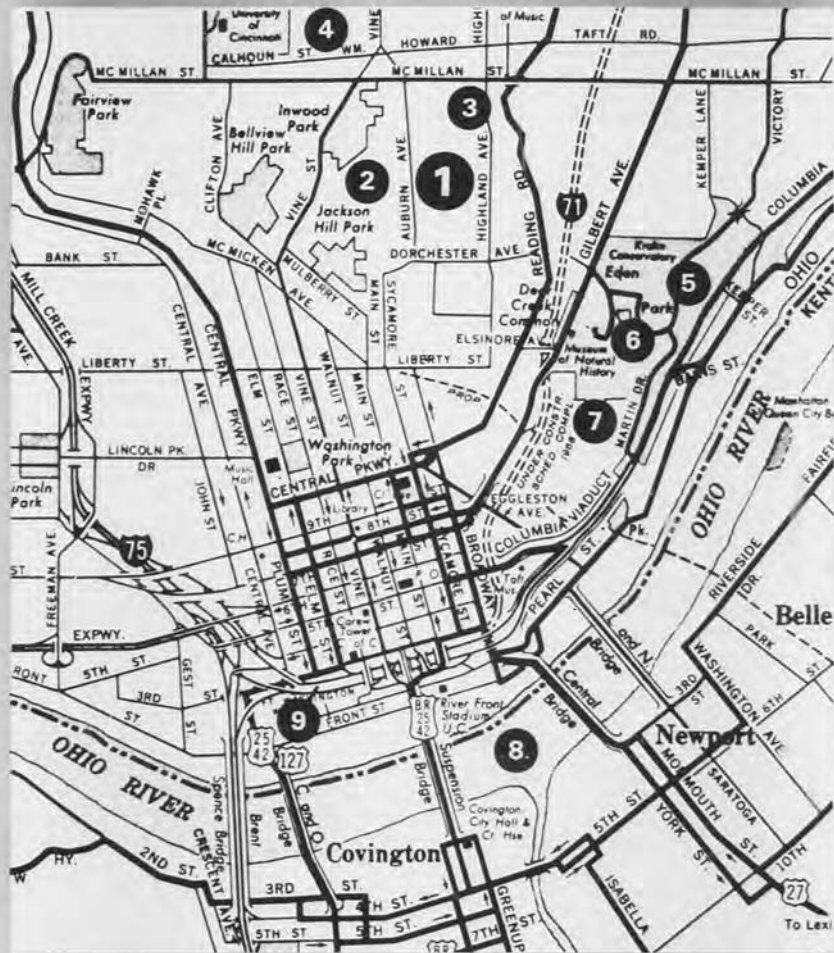
Route 71 will put motorists within a few blocks of the site.

Use of lands surrounding the Taft property is shown on the Existing Use Map. With the exception of William Howard Taft School, Hamilton County's Juvenile Court and Detention Home and Christ Hospital, surrounding lands are privately owned.

The slopes of Mount Auburn to the south and east of the area shown on the Vicinity Map are predominately privately owned residential; the south slope shades into a slum. For the most part, as shown on the Existing Use Map, the properties near the Taft Home are single-family residences, large older houses adapted as apartments, or new apartment buildings. These properties are neat and well-kept, reflecting the very active Mount Auburn Community Council's work on community betterment. Along Auburn Avenue north of the site is a mixture of residences and professional offices, with residences on the side streets.

Regional factors do not have a strong bearing on this Historic Site. While meter parking is provided on the west side of Mount Auburn Avenue and curb parking is permitted on the side streets, these spaces are preempted by residents and by Christ Hospital and Juvenile Court visitors and staff, so visitor parking is not available. Cincinnati is not a major tourist center, though it has several visitor and cultural attractions.

The major influence of the neighborhood upon the proposed site is through the setting that it provides. The suburban setting of large homes in which Taft grew up changed as the city grew out around it. Still, the spacious grounds of the adjacent youth center, and the vacant lots and large yards of the remainder of the block help retain something of the original setting.



FEATURES of INTERESTS

1 Taft Home

2 Christ Hospital

3 Mount Auburn

4 University of Cincinnati

5 Eden Park

6 Art Museum

7 Mount Ida

8 Ohio River

9 Ft. Washington Way

ON MICROFILM
 WIHO-20.001A
 Vicinity Map



The William Howard Taft House is a Registered National Historic Landmark under the theme, "Political and Military Affairs, 1865-1912."

Alphonso Taft, a prominent Cincinnati lawyer, purchased the two-story, white-painted brick house and its two acre lot in 1851. The house was then nearly new, having been built sometime after 1840. Taft promptly added a rear wing, approximately doubling the size of the house. On September 15, 1857, William Howard Taft was born in the first floor bedroom of this addition.

For the next 25 years, the Auburn Avenue House was home to the future President. In 1874, he entered Yale; returning to Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Law School following his graduation. In 1876, Alphonso

Taft was appointed to President Grant's cabinet, first as Secretary of War, then as Attorney General, serving until March 1877. While in Washington, the Tafts rented their Cincinnati home.

In April 1877, as the Tafts waited for the lease to expire so they could reoccupy the property, the roof and second floor were gutted by fire. During repairs, the roof was raised, the second floor windows enlarged, and a new cornice and roof installed over the front part of the house.

Finally, in 1882, when William Howard was becoming established as a lawyer and active Republican, his father was appointed Minister to Austria-Hungary, a post he held until 1885. In 1886, William and his bride stayed in the Auburn Avenue house for a



William Howard Taft stands behind the fence, while his brother, Henry, sits on the post. Other members of the family, including Taft's mother, are in the background. (ca. 1867)

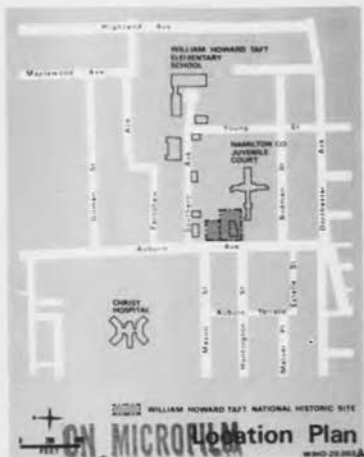
month while their own new house was completed. Two years later, his parents moved to California, and the house was rented, though funeral services for Alphonso Taft were held in it on May 28, 1891. In 1899, the house was sold.

The Taft Family

Alphonso Taft was the first of his family to attain national prominence. His career, highlighted above, was marked by integrity rather than outstanding success or accomplishments. A distinguished judge, his courage and foresight were shown when he held it unconstitutional to read the Bible in the public schools; a decision which may well have prevented him from becoming Governor of Ohio.

Charles Phelps Taft, William Howard's older half-brother, also had a notable career. Educated as a lawyer, he became the editor and eventually the sole proprietor of the Cincinnati Times-Star, manager of his father-in-law's estate, an investor in Ohio utility companies and Cincinnati real estate, and an active Republican. A man of broad cultural interests, he assembled the exceptional collection of furniture, porcelains, enamels and paintings which make his former home, now the Taft Museum, a delight. He ran for office on several occasions, and served one term in Congress, but is better known for his role in shaping his younger brother's career.

William Howard Taft's career in politics began in 1880, when he spoke on behalf of the Republican State Committee. In 1882, he was named Collector of Internal Revenue for Cincinnati but soon resigned. In 1884, he became judge of Cincinnati's Superior Court. Married to Helen Herron in 1886, he became Solicitor General of the United States on February 4, 1890. In 1892, he was appointed to the Federal Circuit Court.



Taft cherished the law and his place on the bench. His career seemed set. However, in February 1900, President McKinley asked him to head American rule in the Philippines in 1901. During his two years as President of the Philippine Commission, he established the supremacy of civil rule and laid the basis for self-government.

In 1903, Taft was recalled to become Secretary of War in Theodore Roosevelt's cabinet. As Secretary, he ably performed such tasks as expediting work on the Panama Canal and establishing temporary American control in Cuba in 1906. By 1908, he had become Roosevelt's heir apparent. He easily won the Republican nomination and the presidency.

To some, Taft's succession after Roosevelt was like substituting a single piccolo player for a brass band. Even now, the accomplishments of the Taft administration are not generally appreciated. Desiring to further reform and to end abuse of economic power, Taft's program produced much in the way of beneficial legislation. Indeed, the Congressional session which began in December of 1909 produced more constructive legislation than had any session since Reconstruction. Taft also prosecuted trusts with even more vigor than his predecessor or his successor.

Despite these accomplishments, conflict between Taft and Roosevelt was inevitable. In 1912 the break was complete. Defeated by Taft for the Republican nomination, Roosevelt ran as a third party candidate for President, and Woodrow Wilson was elected. Taft returned to Yale as professor of law.

On June 30, 1921, President Harding named Taft Chief Justice of the United States, a position to which he brought dignity, learning and experience. He found the Supreme Court bench divided and behind in its work. Since Taft was by nature a coordinator and conciliator rather than an innovator or a leader of judicial thought, it was in dealing with this problem that he was most effective. Among his accomplishments were organizing and getting authorization for the Conference of Senior Circuit Court Judges in 1922, an action which supplied the first degree of coordination of the Federal judicial system; helping secure passage of the "Judges Bill" of 1925, which greatly increased the Supreme Court's discretion over what cases it would hear and enabled it to try cases of constitutional importance promptly; and securing authorization for the Supreme Court building. These and other actions helped make the Federal judicial system much more responsive to changing needs.

To all the many important posts he held, Taft brought excellent administrative ability, a high standard of integrity, and an ingrained respect for private property rights. As President of the Philippine Commission and later as Governor, he devoted himself to improving the economy, building roads and harbors, and establishing self-government. His accomplishments won for him the enduring affection of the Philippines. As Secretary of War, he became in effect the trouble shooter for Roosevelt's administration.

Taft was not an innovator, nor did he have the charisma so marked in many of our greatest political leaders and statesmen. His record was one of solid, if unspectacular, accomplishment. Perhaps his most important accomplishment lay in adapting the Federal judicial system to the needs of a rapidly growing nation.

The House and Grounds Since Taft

In 1899, the property was sold to Judge Albert Thompson; in 1912, Judge Thompson's widow sold it to Colonel E.H. Ruffner, whose daughter sold it to Mr. Elbert R. Bellinger in 1940. The Taft Memorial Association leased a portion of the house in 1960, and acquired fee title in 1968.

In the course of these transfers, the original two-acre lot was reduced to the present half-acre, and the house underwent interior alterations and exterior additions. Judging from the general architectural style, the interior was modernized in the early 1900's, probably by Judge Thompson, though at least some of the original interior details survived. Further changes and modernization occurred after 1940, when Mr. Bellinger converted the interior into several apartments.

The property now consists of the house and half an acre of ground. An old stone wall and a badly deteriorated iron fence mark the northern boundary of the property; a low stone wall topped by an iron railing defines the front and part of the south side. From the sidewalk, a concrete walk leads to the front entrance and connects to walks on either side of the house. A concrete driveway on county land south of the house leads to an unpaved parking area at the rear of the property. From the 1867 photograph, it appears that the stone walls and perhaps the fences are original.

The house is two stories with basement; the original portion is of brick on stone foundation walls; the 1851 addition is entirely brick with the basement exposed. Exterior walls are painted white. Both the stone and the mortar joints of the original basement show signs of incipient disintegration. The brick walls above them have developed cracks, probably at least partly as the result of the 1877 fire and the subsequent patching, which was done with a rather poor grade of mortar. The southeast corner of the 1851 addition was built near a cistern. This corner has settled, causing extensive cracks in the exterior walls and distortion of window frames.

The roof of the original portion, together with the second floor window, has been restored to its original appearance by the Taft Memorial Association. Salvaged timbers were used in the repairs following the 1877 fire; charred timbers are still in place in the second floor partitions and local codes may require their replacement. The roof of the addition, damaged by the fire, has deteriorated and requires replacement.

Present floor layouts are shown on the Existing Conditions Map; probable historic layouts on the General Development Plan—Structure. The first



floor of the original portion is an apartment, the occupants of which provide protection for the property. Interior finish is wallpaper over plaster, and is generally in poor condition. On the second floor, small sections of the finish flooring and extensive portions of plaster have been removed during architectural research. The rear room, second floor, of the 1851 addition has no finish flooring. The heating system is gas-fired hot water—a conversion from a warm air burning furnace carried out by Mr. Bellingier.

The Taft Memorial Association has had restoration and landscape plans prepared.

Land on which the Taft Home stands slopes towards the rear. At the north boundary, a drive connecting to the street begins with paved surface (imperfect at that), followed by gravel surface, and terminates in an ungraded and unsurfaced area. Some 18 cars are presently accommodated on the rear and north sides.



1878



1960

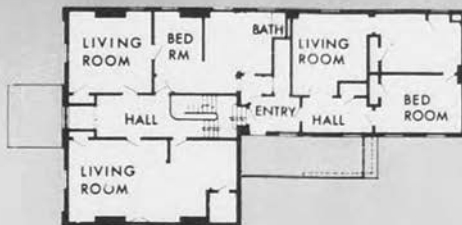


1960

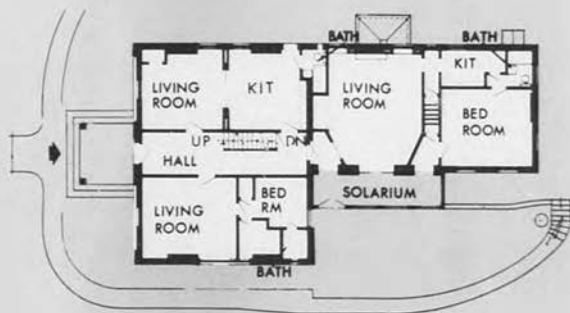
A number of large trees are scattered in the front and more in the back. Apart from concrete walks connecting the sidewalks to the front and side entrances, the front and side yards are covered with turf in fair condition.

The property to the north, presently owned by Cross Construction Company, consists of a multistory residential building on Auburn Avenue and a parking lot in the back. Three stories can be seen from the street side, by the sharp drop in the rear (over 15 feet) made it possible to accommodate two additional floors above grade. This is a frame building faced with stone in the front and the exterior is in fair condition. The parking lot is adjacent to additional parking space belonging to another apartment to the north. A steep drive connects all parking to Southern Avenue.

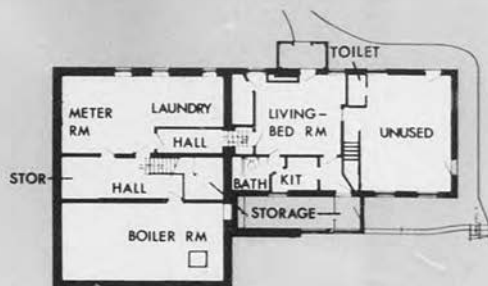
SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



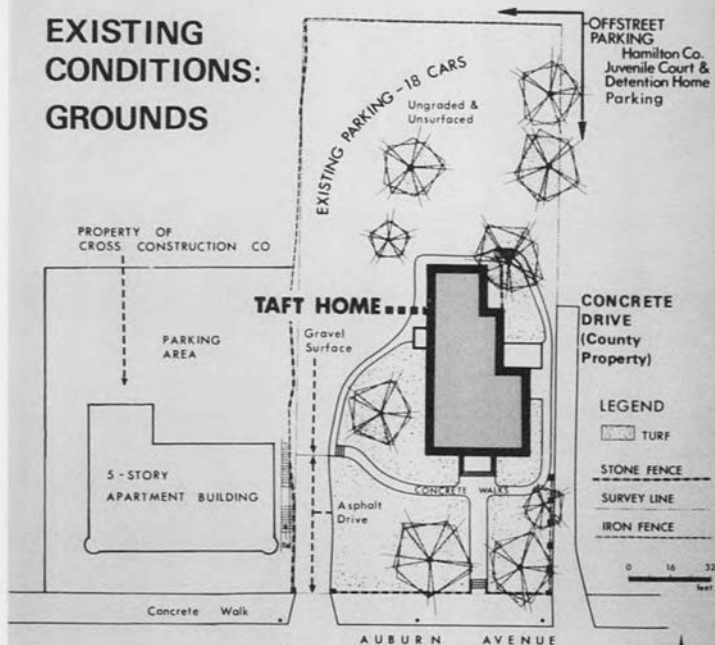
GROUND FLOOR basement



Existing Conditions: Building
ON MICROFILM

WIHO-20.005A

EXISTING CONDITIONS: GROUNDS



20004 A
WIHO

ON MICROFILM

FACTORS AFFECTING RESOURCES AND USE

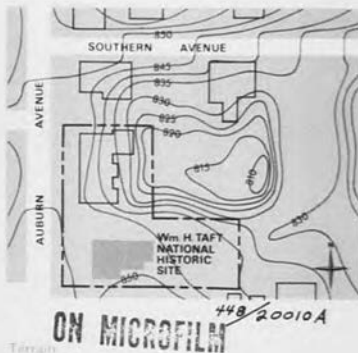
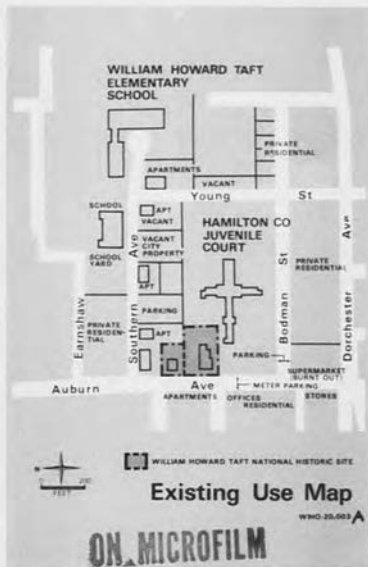
Legal Factors

The one-half-acre Taft property and the 0.28 acre property to the north must be acquired by donation or using donated funds. The one-half-acre Taft property is owned by the William Howard Taft Memorial Association and its donation is anticipated. It is expected that Hamilton County will donate an easement permitting the National Park Service to landscape the narrow strip of property, about 20 feet

wide, between the southern property line of the site and the county's access drive. It is also possible that the county will agree to retain the view of the Taft Home from the south when it enlarges its Juvenile Court complex.

Jurisdiction will be proprietary.

The north boundary wall and fence is as much as four feet outside of the surveyed property line.



As the above sketch shows, a steep rectangular depression abuts the rear two-thirds of the north line of the Taft property. More significantly, the adjoining property, proposed for visitor parking, drops sharply some 25 feet below Auburn Avenue. While this could present a problem in providing a connection to the Taft grounds, it would help set the parking on a lower level and thus makes it easier to screen. It is a challenging situation for an imaginative designer.

THE PLAN

Maximum Visitor Capacity

The maximum capacity of the proposed site is approximately 40 visitors at a time. Assuming an average of 30 minutes for each visit, and an eight-hour day, maximum daily capacity is 640. Extended use of special events and evening programs would increase this capacity by about 80 persons.

Interpretation

The two themes are the youthful environment of William Howard Taft, and his later life and public contribution. The relevance of the first theme to the second has been alluded to previously in this plan, and its interpretive presentation is inherent in the physical resource of the site itself. The second theme, however, is divorced from the site both in time and place. It is, furthermore, predominately abstract in content. It should be added that, in the pure historical sense, the second theme is actually of greater significance than the first—the mature life and work of a man is at the heart of his importance; his birth and childhood, the things that made him what he later became, are obviously of secondary significance.

These factors are responsible for interpretive problems at most "birthplace" sites where the physical resource represents the only tangible association with the individual subject, at the same time it represents a period of secondary importance in his life. In a large measure this consideration is responsible for interpretive developments suggested for the Taft site.

The physical resources, the house, and its grounds, can adequately interpret the early life and environment of William Howard Taft, and will require only to be tied-into other interpretive developments

to provide full understanding and treatment of this theme. The house exterior and grounds should be authentically restored to the time of the most intensive Taft association—1851 - 1874. Inside the preserved structure, the hall, south parlor, dining room and first floor bedroom (assumed to be that in which Taft was born) should be restored and refurnished to appear as they did during the above period.

The north parlors on the first floor should be restored in period style to serve adaptive use. They will be the location of an audio-visual facility.

The second floor of the house interior should be fully preserved and selectively restored. The south rooms in the original block should be restored in period style for adaptive use as a meeting and social gathering area. The north section of the main block should be similarly restored to accommodate an appropriate library facility, furnished in the manner of the period of the house's interpretation. The rear wing of the house should be developed to accommodate administrative functions, and should include a small kitchen facility. In the event that future research reveals which of these second floor rooms served as Taft's bedroom, consideration may need to be given to adjusting this plan to permit that room to be fully restored and historically refurnished.

Visitors will enter the Taft house through its front door into an entrance hall which can accommodate such visitor services as initial contact, orientation, and distribution of publications. They may then choose between two experiences: touring the fully restored portions of the house using a self-guiding tour development, or browsing in the audio-visual exhibit area until time for the next audio-visual presentation.

Audio-visual facilities will bear the major burden of

interpreting Taft's background, adult life, career, and public service. Because of the low-keyed but substantial character of the subject's life, and because of the variety of his contributions (as President, as Secretary of War, as President of the Philippine Commission, Governor of the Philippines and in the judiciary) more than one audio-visual program should exist. Ideally, one program should be prepared for each of these important areas, in order that Taft's contribution can be fairly presented in a meaningful and enjoyable fashion and to make possible the goal of using the site as a teaching aid in the school curricula. One audio-visual presentation should, of course, be a syncretic program based upon the childhood and adult accomplishments of the President.

Other visitor time at the house may be spent in the library, where Taft memorabilia and, particularly, recordings can bring the man alive for visitors having an interest in experiences of this type.

School and other neighborhood groups will be invited to use the house for purposes not wholly associated with Taft—particularly for meetings and related social occasions. Such "visitors" will have an entirely different experience at the Site, and may use none of the interpretive developments suggested. Their experience, rather, should be that of entering a house—structure where hospitality and warmth are the theme, and where the historic environment is incidental but of great importance in providing a unique and interesting quality of experience, as well as, for many, a new and potentially broadening window into the past. An interpretive prospectus will be prepared and implemented.

Preservation and Restoration

Restoration work will be based on the appearance of

the Home in 1857. The first floor south parlor, dining room and bedroom will be accurately refurnished. The second floor parlor and library will be furnished in keeping with the period. The north parlor on the first floor will be developed as an audio-visual decorative exhibit facility retaining a period atmosphere. The other parts of the house will be developed in a contemporary style for adaptive use.

School and Youth Programs

William Howard Taft is Cincinnati's most prominent native son. His career was of national significance, his public services had many facets, and his life was marked by the highest standard of personal integrity, political courage and respect for the law as it has evolved over the years. For these reasons, the proposed site will be of great interest to regional schools and lends itself as an extension classroom for a number of subjects, including civics, local history, American history and government. The proposed Site should take advantage of this potential by working with the public and parochial school systems of Cincinnati and surrounding counties to develop previsit materials and on-site programs so that the class visit is a meaningful extension of its classroom work and not just an outing. Space limitations will require advance reservations for all visiting school groups, and an effort should be made to distribute school use over the entire school year.

Further, the proximity of the Hamilton County Juvenile Court and Detention Home presents a unique opportunity to involve the youths in its care in the programs of the Site. This will be an entirely new field for the National Park Service, and there are no precedents to draw upon in formulating such a program. Program development will require patience, understanding, flexibility and very close cooperation with the staff of the Court.

Community Programs

Both the historical associations and the physical layout of the Taft home make it an appropriate place for meetings of relatively small historical and patriotic groups; such use should be encouraged to the extent that it does not conflict with visitor use and that funds and staff to supervise it are available. Structural reinforcement will be required to permit public use of the second floor.

The neighborhood is one which had deteriorated, and is now being renewed through the efforts of individual property owners and the very active Mount Auburn Community Council of the antipoverty program. The National Park Service should encourage and cooperate in this program by developing the Taft House and grounds to provide an historically accurate and aesthetically appealing composition; by encouraging abutting property owners to clean up the gully along the north property line, and, if local groups so desire, by encouraging use of the Site facilities for small community group meetings.

Site Operations

At present, protection is provided by a family who occupy a first floor apartment. Continued residential use of the house is not recommended; protection will be provided by Cincinnati police, by automatic detection systems and by the interest and goodwill of Site neighbors. The nearest fire station is within ten blocks. District police headquarters are about a mile and a half from the Site.

Site Development – General

Two considerations are paramount in developing the proposed William Howard Taft National Historic Site. First, the location of the Site in relation to center

city, the nature of existing public transportation, and overloaded neighborhood parking facilities combine to make provision of visitor parking highly desirable if not essential. Second, the entire half-acre of the Taft property is needed for landscape development to provide an effective setting for the House.

This plan proposes restoration and landscape development of the entire Taft property, and development of the lot adjoining it on the north for visitor parking. The Taft Memorial has offered to acquire the adjacent property, clear it and donate it to the Federal government. The National Historic Site is not feasible unless this property can be acquired. Parking on this Site will not be visible from Auburn Avenue, and removal of the structure now standing on the lot will help recreate the original setting of the Taft Home.

Site Development – Structure

All visitor use, administrative and operational facilities will be provided within the Taft home. Recommended space allocations are shown on page 19.

The exterior of the front part of the building has been restored to its original appearance, using modern materials. The interior has been altered since the Taft years, and the entire building, especially the 1851 addition, requires extensive repair to make it safe and easily maintained.

Interior restoration is recommended only for those rooms to be exhibited, mainly on the first floor. Remaining rooms should be rehabilitated and refinished to reflect the spirit of the original house without attempting full restorations.

Restoration and development plans have been prepared by the firm of Wood and Kock in

General Development Plan: Grounds

1 HOME RESTORATION

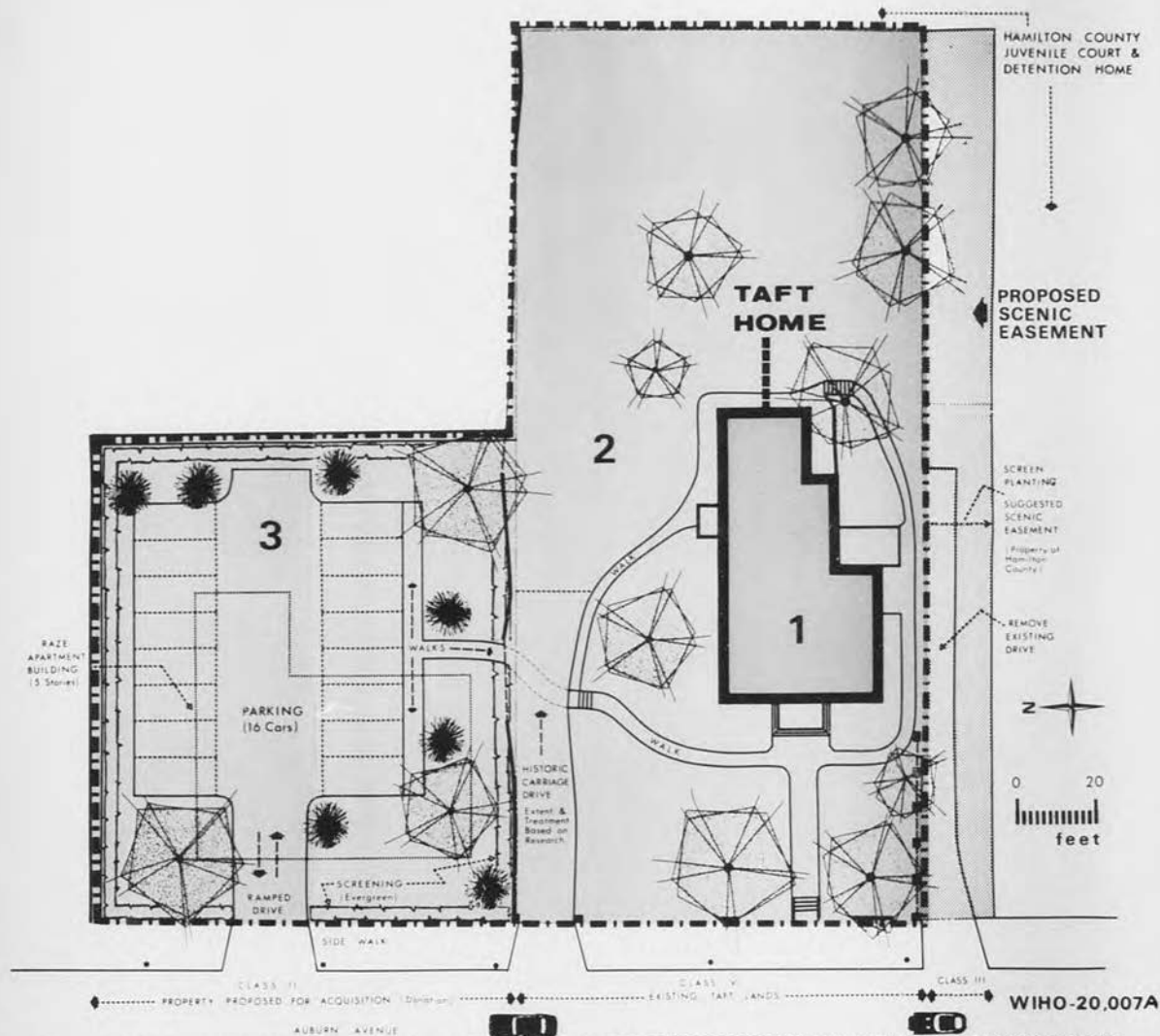
- RESEARCH
- EXTERIOR RESTORATION
- INTERIOR RESTORATION & REHABILITATION
As Shown On Building Development Plans

2 GROUND RESTORATION

- RESTORATION OF GROUNDS & WALKS
- RESTORATION OF CARRIAGE DRIVE
- GROUND COVER & PLANTING
- RESTORATION OF WALLS & FENCES

3 GROUND DEVELOPMENT

- RAZING OF APARTMENT
- FILL, GRADING, & RETAINING WALLS
- PARKING & WALKS
- GROUND COVER & PLANTING

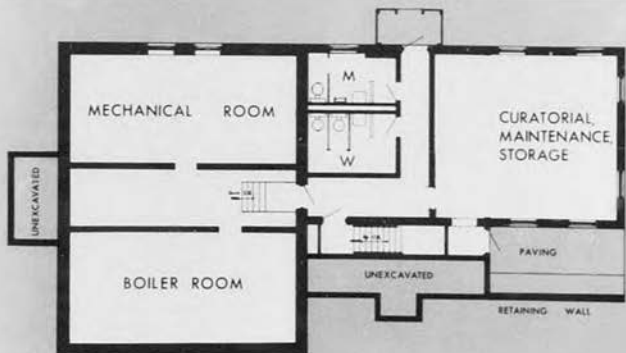
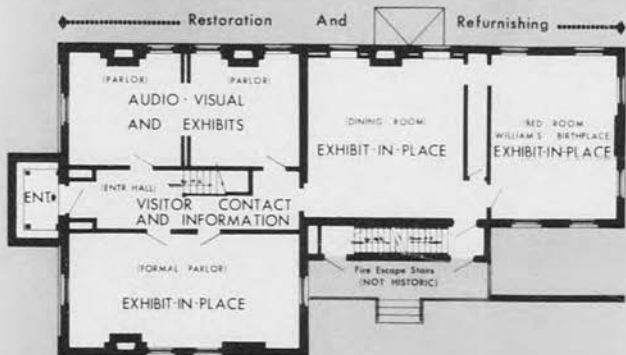
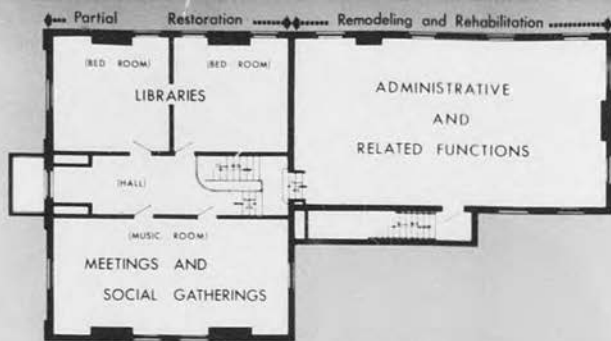


Second Floor

collaboration with Paul V. Kiel. These plans, with some modifications, were used as the basis for the General Development Plan. Research will be required to confirm the room layouts and establish exterior details and the historic appearance of the grounds. The staircase in the rear addition is a non-historic proposal to meet local codes, and should be omitted if local authorities will agree.

First Floor

Basement



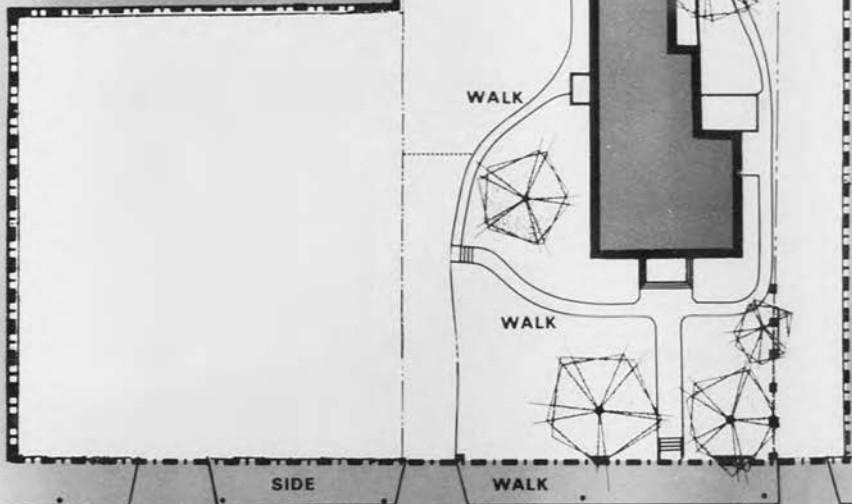
General Development: Structure
ON MICROFILM
WIHO-20,008A

HAMILTON COUNTY
JUVENILE COURT &
DETENTION HOME

William
Howard
Taft
National
Historic
Site

Boundary
Map

PROPOSED BOUNDARY

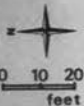


SIDE

WALK

AUBURN AVENUE

TAHO 20.0094 ON MICROFILM
AUGUST 1969





Public Law 91-132
91st Congress, H. R. 7066
December 2, 1969

An Act

83 STAT. 273

To provide for the establishment of the William Howard Taft National Historic Site.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in order to preserve in public ownership historically significant properties associated with the life of William Howard Taft, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire, by donation or purchase with donated funds, such land and interests in land, together with buildings and improvements thereon and including scenic easements, at or in the vicinity of Auburn Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, as are depicted on the drawing entitled "William Howard Taft National Historic Site Boundary Map," numbered TAHO-20009, and dated August 1969. The drawing shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. When acquired such site shall be known as the William Howard Taft National Historic Site.

William Howard
Taft National
Historic Site,
Ohio.
Establishment.

Sec. 2. The administration, development, preservation, and maintenance of the William Howard Taft National Historic Site shall be exercised by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes", approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

Administration.

39 Stat. 535.

49 Stat. 566.

Sec. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$318,000 to provide for the restoration and development of the William Howard Taft National Historic Site.

Appropriation.

Approved December 2, 1969.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 91-478 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs).
SENATE REPORT No. 91-396 accompanying S. 560 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 115 (1969):

Sept. 15: Considered and passed House.

Sept. 24: Considered and passed Senate, amended, in lieu of S. 560.

Nov. 18: House concurred in Senate amendment, with amendment.

Nov. 19: Senate concurred in House amendment.

TEAM MEMBERS

David A. Kimball, Team Captain, Office of Resource Planning, WSC

Meir Sofair, Architect, Office of Resource Planning, WSC

Mrs. Nan Rickey, Interpretive Planner, Division of Planning and Interpretive Services

George Schesvener, Superintendent, Mound City Group National Monument

Charles P. Taft, President, The William Howard Taft Memorial Association

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE