



Foundation Document Overview

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

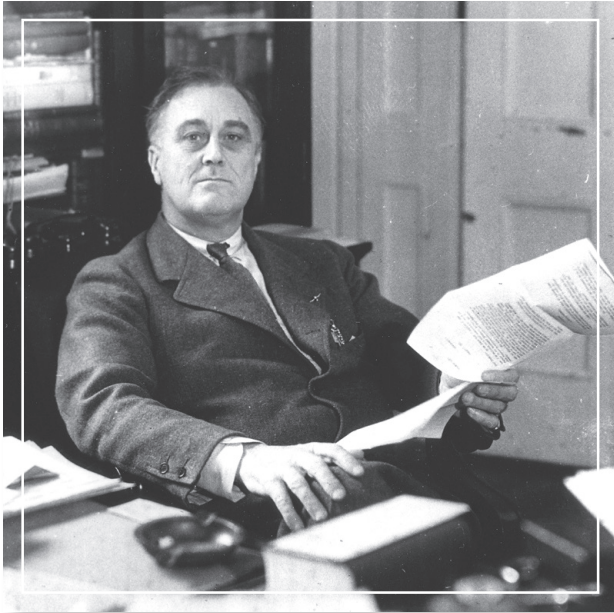
New York



Contact Information

For more information about the *Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site Foundation Document*, contact: hofr_superintendent@nps.gov or (845) 229-9115 or write to: Superintendent, Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, 4097 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, NY 12538

Purpose



The purpose of HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to preserve and interpret the birthplace, lifelong home, and memorial gravesite of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, so that current and future generations can understand the life and legacy of the longest serving U.S. president—a man who led the nation through the Great Depression and World War II.



Significance

Significance statements express why Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site is the birthplace, family home, and burial place of the 32nd president of the United States. The site reflects his marriage and political partnership with his wife Eleanor, as they resided, raised their family, and are buried there.
- The Roosevelt Home, Top Cottage, and surrounding landscape (where he developed a sense of environmental stewardship) comprise the setting where President Roosevelt developed policies and undertook political and diplomatic consultations that in a time of deep national crisis helped redefine the role of the federal government and profoundly increased American involvement in world affairs.
- The FDR Presidential Library, the first presidential library managed by the National Archives and Records Administration, contains the papers and memorabilia of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, and many figures of the Roosevelt administration.



Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **FDR Home, Support Buildings, and Top Cottage**
- **Landscape, including Burial Site for Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt and Scenic Views**
- **Museum and Archival Collections**

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

- **Bellefield Property**
- **Natural Resources**



Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- **At Home on the Hudson River.** The Roosevelt family's Hyde Park estate nurtured the boy who became president and was a family compound where Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt created an environment to promote political and social change.
- **A Powerful Partnership.** Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt experienced personal challenges and relationships that helped them forge a partnership focused on social and economic progress that would make a difference in the lives of all people.
- **Leadership Amidst Crises.** President Franklin D. Roosevelt led the United States through the crises of the Great Depression and World War II, championing a vision of economic security for all and world peace and using the power of government to achieve these goals.
- **Legacy and Memorialization (Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt).** The political and social legacies of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt are interpreted and memorialized at Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites, including their burial site and the presidential library.



Description

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, on the east bank of the Hudson River in Dutchess County, New York, is the birthplace and lifelong home of the 32nd president of the United States. The Hyde Park estate of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) served as a wellspring for the ideals that he championed in his political life as well as his family home and public life throughout his career and especially during his presidency. It is the only place where a U.S. president maintained lifelong connections, from birth through his career to his final resting place.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site comprises almost 772 acres of the former 1,522-acre historic Roosevelt Family Estate that stretched from the Hudson River east to Cream Street in Hyde Park and includes gardens, grounds, orchards, woodlands, and former agricultural lands.

The FDR home, called Springwood, is the centerpiece of the estate. The park also includes Top Cottage, conceived and built by FDR as a personal retreat. It reflects his architectural sensibility, regional connections, and physical needs. The site's magnificent view overlooking the Hudson River to the mountains beyond inspired the president's deepest feelings. 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 Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum, established in 1938 by Congress as the nation's first presidential library, is managed by the National Archives and Records Administration. Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site **and** the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum work together closely, sharing the visitor center and presenting a comprehensive depiction of the Roosevelts.

