

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED JAN 16 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Warm Springs Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER south of Ga. 41-194 and west of Ga. 85W.

CITY, TOWN

Warm Springs

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Georgia

VICINITY OF

CODE
013

COUNTY

Meriwether

CODE

199

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Hospital

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (CONTINUED)

NAME State of Georgia

STREET & NUMBER Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission;
Georgia Department of Human Resources

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Meriwether County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Warm Springs Historic District, consisting largely of buildings dating from the 1920's and 1930's, includes the Little White House of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and its subsidiary buildings, currently a memorial-museum area, and the Roosevelt-Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center, still an active medical facility. Remains of the outdoor hydrotherapy treatment pools at the actual "warm springs" site and a number of extant residential cottages are intimately associated with the hospital's history. The general appearance of the district is the same as in Roosevelt's time.

Warm Springs Historic District forms the core of the lands utilized by the Warm Springs Foundation during its operation as a center for the victims of infantile paralysis (polio) and of the Georgia lands owned by Franklin D. Roosevelt. The total landholdings of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission, which operates the Little White House, and the Roosevelt-Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center, an agency of the Georgia State Department of Human Resources, which manages the hospital, are considerably more extensive than the district, but remain largely in a natural state or in agricultural use.

During Roosevelt's years at Warm Springs (1924-45), the main entrance to the hospital area was via Cherry Road (today a service road). The pillars that supported the rustic entrance gate still survive. Today the main hospital complex is ordinarily approached by the current Hospital Entrance Road (Pine Road), to the east of Cherry Road. The internal pattern of roads within the district is essentially as it was historically.

The focal building of the hospital is Georgia Hall, one of the earliest structures and the most symbolic. To its rear and sides, a complex of buildings, interconnected by a covered arcade, surrounds an open courtyard. The individual structures of this group were constructed at various times, corresponding to the growth of the hospital and its treatment facilities. The earliest is the Norman Wilson Infirmary, erected in 1930.

Georgia Hall, built in 1933, is a long one-story structure of whitewashed brick with projecting wings. Its most distinguishing architectural feature is a raised pedimented central portico supported by Doric columns. Georgia Hall and its wings contain the main registration desk, recreation and reception rooms, certain hospital offices, and the dining hall. This latter room, where Roosevelt customarily shared Thanksgiving Dinner with the hospital patients, is in the wing to the right of the central portico and retains its original use.

(CONTINUED)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1924-1955 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Principally Henry Toombs

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Warm Springs Historic District, adjacent to the small Georgia town that is its namesake, has dual significance in U.S. history. Not only does it commemorate a major humanitarian endeavor, the Warm Springs Foundation, but it is also strongly related to the career of President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-45), the key figure in the creation of the foundation. He was closely associated with Warm Springs from 1924 until his death at his Little White House there in 1945. During his frequent stays, he conducted important Government business, including aspects of the New Deal and American participation in World War II.

From the Warm Springs Foundation, which created the hospital, long the only center exclusively devoted to the treatment of poliomyelitis (polio), grew the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which conducted the "March of Dimes." This represented one of the first and most successful volunteer efforts by private charity to aid the victims of a disease and to eradicate its cause. Americans are all familiar with "Roosevelt dimes," daily reminders of this movement and its founder.

Although exhaustive archeological work has not been conducted, it appears that even prehistoric man bathed in the naturally "warm" (89° F.) waters that issue from the springs in the present treatment pool area.

Late in the 18th century Savannah residents, seeking to escape persistent yellow fever epidemics, began to visit Warm Springs. By 1832 the place (known as Bullochville until 1924) had become a popular summer resort for Southerners. A small village grew up there.

The town narrowly escaped pillage during the Civil War, but suffered severe fires later in the century. As rebuilt, during the 1880's and 1890's, it was a fashionable "watering place" for the aristocracy of the South. The resort property changed hands several times, and its prosperity declined. Finally, in 1923, George Foster Peabody, a New York financier and native Georgian, acquired an option on it.

A young and vigorous New Yorker, who had served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy under President Wilson and run as the Vice-Presidential candidate of the Democratic Party in 1920, Franklin D. Roosevelt had seemed assured of a bright political future when suddenly, in 1921, he contracted poliomyelitis

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 265 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 7,1,6,5,5,0 | 3,6,4,1,4,0,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1,6 | 7,1,6,9,0,0 | 3,6,3,9,8,8,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,6 | 7,1,6,3,9,0 | 3,6,3,9,8,8,0

D 1,6 | 7,1,5,2,6,0 | 3,6,4,1,5,1,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 1 6 . 7 1 5 9 1 0 3 6 4 1 7 8 0

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James H. Charleton - Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey Division, OAHP, HCRS

DATE

April 10, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Pension Building - 440 G Street NW.,

TELEPHONE

343-6261 or 343-6404

CITY OR TOWN

Washington, D. C.

STATE

D. C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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OWNER OF PROPERTY

Mr. and Mrs. Hoke Shipp
Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center
Warm Springs, Georgia 31830

Ms. Mary Veeder
Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center
Warm Springs, Georgia 31830

Mr. John Weeks
Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center
Warm Springs, Georgia 31830

Dr. and Mrs. H. Stuart Raper
Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center
Warm Springs, Georgia 31830

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Georgia Hall, as do most other structures in the district, illustrates the adaptation of architectural design to the needs of handicapped people. Specific features influenced by these requirements are the entrances and corridors. All of them are level and wide enough to permit the passage of wheelchairs. Also the windows, many of which are nearly level with the floors, facilitate emergency exit. This key structure is in essentially good condition, although its roof has suffered deterioration.

Other portions of the Georgia Hall complex were constructed as funds became available. Builders' Hall, connected to the west wing of Georgia Hall, and Kress Hall, both originally used as dormitories, were constructed in 1935. The Columbus Colonnade, across the rear of Georgia Hall, was added in 1937, and extended later. The Medical Building (Surgical Wing), which faces the rear of Georgia Hall across the court, was opened in 1939. The East Wing (1945-46), Roosevelt Hall (1952-3), and the Children's Pavilion (1955) are later additions. Founder's Hall, built in 1957, completed the courtyard.

Certain facilities outside the Georgia Hall group were built during the 1930's. The chapel (1937), in the form of a Latin cross, stands directly diagonal from Georgia Hall. It was the gift of Georgia Wilkins, whose family had once owned the resort complex that preceded the hospital. The brace shop (1938) and school building (1939) are just west of the Georgia Hall group. The school remained an accredited elementary and high school until 1968, when declining enrollment caused its closing. The interior appointments of the school are almost totally intact.

Henry Toombs, who was associated with Roosevelt and Warm Springs from the 1920's until his death in the late 1960's, designed virtually all the hospital buildings. One of the exceptions is the Children's Pavilion, by Joe Amasanto. This scaled-down building features a floor-to-ceiling bird cage in its octagonal solarium room.

Donald Ross, a well known Scottish golf-course designer, planned the golf course, which is on lower ground generally west of the main hospital facilities.

The warm springs site itself, where extensive outdoor swimming-treatment pools were constructed, most probably in 1928, is near the main highway, along the road at the foot of the bluff on which the hospital stands and across the access road from the golf course. The three treatment pools are extant, though in a somewhat deteriorated condition.

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Henry Toombs designed the pools and bath houses. He apparently incorporated existing facilities at the site into his plan. Franklin D. Roosevelt made some suggestions for the design. Edsel Ford financed the glass-enclosed pool for winter use.

A large T-shaped outdoor public pool was located slightly to the east of the treatment pool area. The public pool has been filled in. A dance pavilion adjacent to the public pool has also disappeared.

The pools enjoyed their greatest use from 1928 until 1942, when an indoor treatment pool was completed in the main hospital area. Thereafter, the hospital discontinued regular use of the patients' pool, although it was used on a sporadic basis until around 1970. The public pool was closed in 1945.

The interconnected treatment pools, surrounded by a chain-link fence, remain essentially intact, except for the removal of the glass that once enclosed the most northerly of them and for a light overgrowth of shrubs and small trees. A simple wood frame building, once used as a bath house, remains along the pools' western edge. Eight bays wide, the bath house extends from a point between the northern and the middle pools to near the end of the southernmost. The roof slants downward away from the pools. Two entrances near the ends of the building provide access. The interior, featuring concrete floors and individual dressing areas, is essentially well preserved. An equipment room is also still largely in its original state.

Along the edge of the southernmost pool is an open structure floored with concrete. It is covered by a hip roof and linked to a shed-like attachment. These buildings run out to the edge of the southernmost pool. This poolside area was likely used for shelter from the rain and for such purposes as cardplaying and lounging.

Both aboveground structures appear to have suffered some structural deterioration and are vulnerable to falling tree limbs.

The concrete walls of the pools are cracked. This has probably been caused by land settlement and the pressure of the spring water that feeds them. The iron handrails leading into the pools are rusted.

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On the northeastern corner of the pools is the pump station, which supplies water to the hospital. This building and its machinery are in good condition. At the southeastern corner is a smaller pump building, which apparently once serviced the pools.

The precise location of the "warm springs" has been covered by the manmade structures but is undoubtedly under the southern edge of the present pool area.

To the south of the hospital core area is a section containing a number of residential structures, called "cottages," though many of them are reasonably comfortable homes. Certain of these antedate construction of the hospital complex; most of the others were constructed in the late 1920's and early 1930's. The cottage area of that period is largely intact though certain structures burned and a few have been taken down to accommodate hospital growth. Several have been somewhat altered by additions or repartitioning. There is only one recent structure in this area, the Hilliard Cottage (1957). Most of the cottages today are used for staff housing. Four are privately owned.

In most cases the cottages were built for or came into the ownership of people who were patients or staff at the hospital. Their design exhibits the same sensitivity to the needs of the handicapped as the main hospital buildings. Wheelchair ramps and flat entrances are commonplace.

Henry Toombs was also responsible for most of the residential architecture in the district. He designed many of the cottages, including the medical director's residence, "Mansion" Cottage, Fryers House, Hamilton House, Dewey House, Georgia Wilkins House, Huntington House, Keith Morgan House, and Carpenter House. Most of the cottages are one-story hipped roof structures. He also designed two homes in the cottage area for Franklin D. Roosevelt, who exerted some influence on their planning.

The first of these, known today as the McCarthy Cottage, is in the main cottage group. Its design elements, particularly on the interior, are somewhat reminiscent of those in the second Roosevelt home at Warm Springs, the "Little White House."

Roosevelt sold this first cottage, which he occupied from 1926 until 1932, to Leighton McCarthy, a Canadian businessman who served as ambassador to the United States during World War II. The McCarthy Cottage was used

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subsequently at various times by Basil O'Connor, Roosevelt's law partner and longtime associate in the Warm Springs Foundation and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis ("March of Dimes"), and by Dr. Jonas Salk, who perfected the first effective vaccine against polio.

The Little White House, completed for Roosevelt in 1932, was, during his lifetime, more secluded than it is now. It was reached by an unpaved road leading south from the cottage area. Only traces of this old road remain. An access road, leading off Georgia Route 85W, is now used by visitors.

The Little White House, its detached garage-servant's quarters (1932), guesthouse (1933), and the Georgia Wilkins Cottage (1934) are the original buildings. Except for the Wilkins Cottage, the buildings retain their exterior and interior appearances as of 1945. The Wilkins Cottage was willed to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission on Miss Wilkins' death in 1959. Henry Toombs oversaw interior modifications to convert it to museum use.

A visitor center and parking lot, a memorial fountain, paved walks, and an avenue flanked by State flags, which leads from the visitor center to the Wilkins Cottage, postdate the other structures. These all sit to one side of the Little White House tract.

A white picket fence defines the Little White House compound. The entrance gate, a so-called "bump gate," was designed to open with slight pressure from an automobile bumper and to close by gravity. After Roosevelt became President, eight wooden sentry boxes, similar to the two that still flank the gate, were positioned around the structures.

A circular drive that begins just inside the fence encircles the guesthouse and servant's quarters and passes in front of the main portico of the Little White House. This driveway was originally earthen, but has been paved with soil cement.

The six-room Little White House is a simple one-story wooden structure covered with clapboard. The facade features a four-columned central temple form portico, a glazed entrance with sidelights and a rectangular transom, and high nine-over-nine windows.

There are six rooms in the structure. The slightly off-center entrance hall cuts through to the combination living-dining room, but also opens laterally into Eleanor Roosevelt's bedroom, on the left, and into a narrow side hall, on the right. The latter hall provides access to the kitchen, in the right front corner of the house.

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The living-dining room is glassed on the west side by French doors flanked by high windows. The French doors open onto a sundeck, the central part of which projects in a semicircular fashion. The sundeck, which Franklin D. Roosevelt used frequently, overlooks the edge of a large and heavily wooded ravine.

Roosevelt's personal secretary used a bedroom off the living room to the right. There are two bathrooms, one between the kitchen and the secretary's bedroom and the other between Franklin's and Eleanor's bedrooms. His bedroom is behind Eleanor's.

The living-dining room and the other rooms in the house are finished in Georgia pine. The only readily visible adaptations of the house to Roosevelt's infirmity are the flat sills and the raised bathroom fixtures. Some of the furniture is from the Val-Kill (N. Y.) workshops in which Mrs. Roosevelt took an active interest.

Personal mementos of Roosevelt fill the house: his wheelchair, books, ship models, and other nautical artifacts. The furnishings and personal belongings that were in place on April 12, 1945, are preserved intact. On that afternoon, Roosevelt was seated in a favorite chair near the fireplace, while posing for a portrait by Madame Elizabeth Shoumatoff. Suddenly, he suffered a massive stroke. He was carried from the room into his bedroom, where he died later that same afternoon. Her portrait, left unfinished, remains in the spot where she was working.

The only modifications of any consequence that have been made in the structure since 1945 are the building of a concrete surfaced sundeck to replace the old wooden one and the construction of a new room under it. As a part of this change, small covered porches on either side of the sundeck were removed. To provide access to the new room, a stair was inserted in the right wing of the sundeck. The additional room served for a while as a museum. Today its principal use is as the meetingplace of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission.

The hipped-roof, columned, frame servant's quarters has two rooms over an open garage that now functions as an exhibition space for Roosevelt's 1938 Ford convertible. The single-story guesthouse, the more southerly of the two buildings, was built in 1933. It is a frame cottage, also with a hipped roof, and contains a living room, a bedroom, and a bath.

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Franklin Roosevelt bequeathed the Little White House group, their furnishings, and certain tracts of land to the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, which chose to grant the property to the State of Georgia. The State created the memorial commission, a self-perpetuating body, which has kept the Little White House open to the public since 1948.

The other structures in the hospital-cottage area, besides those already described, do not contribute to the historic significance of the district. These include, in addition to certain utility structure, the modern building complex of the Georgia Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center (buildings one through seven on the accompanying plan), and a group of apartments on Elm Road. The Rehabilitation Center buildings, of modern design, are largely isolated from the view of the main Warm Springs Hospital area.

In 1974, declining patient enrollment and other factors brought about the transfer, by the National Foundation, of the Warm Springs hospital facility to the jurisdiction of the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

Today the Roosevelt-Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center conducts an active program of physical rehabilitation, psychological counseling, and new career development.

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and was paralyzed from the waist down. During the next 3 years, he tried a variety of physical regimens and journeyed widely in a desperate quest for treatment that would improve his condition.

From Peabody, a personal friend, Roosevelt learned of the remarkable recovery that a young polio victim, Louis Joseph, had experienced after bathing in the swimming pools at Warm Springs. Roosevelt traveled there and arrived on October 3, 1924. He rented the Hart (now Pierson) cottage. The next day, he began swimming and immediately felt an improvement. He was able to move his right leg for the first time in 3 years.

Roosevelt's national prominence assured publicity for his first visit to Warm Springs. His experience was soon featured in a syndicated Sunday newspaper supplement. Returning in 1925, he was joined by other patients. The next year, he bought the entire resort area for approximately \$200,000, a major part of his personal fortune. That year, he built his first cottage there. As part of his commitment, he sought expert medical advice and began to solicit contributions from his well-to-do friends. These efforts culminated, in 1927, in the organization of the nonprofit Warm Springs Foundation, to which he turned over the property.

Warm Springs became virtually a second home for Roosevelt. He returned every year, except 1942, for at least a short stop or vacation, but frequently stayed for considerably longer periods, especially in the years 1926-1928. For the rest of his life, he took intense interest in all phases of the operation of the Warm Springs Foundation. He commented on land purchases and building plans, including the decision to tear down the old Meriwether Inn, which had been the focus of the resort, and replace it with safer buildings adapted to use by polio patients. He worked and played with the patients and shared Thanksgiving Dinner with them whenever he could.

In 1928, only a year after the creation of the Warm Springs Foundation, FDR had faced a decision crucial to his future. His financial and personal commitment to the institution was great. But his interest in politics had never waned. That year, he journeyed from Warm Springs to Houston and placed Al Smith in nomination for President. Smith, once he had secured the nomination, repeatedly urged Roosevelt to run for Governor of New York, the position Smith was vacating.

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Finally, during the State convention, Smith phoned Roosevelt at Warm Springs and persuaded him to accept the nomination. Although Smith lost New York and the Presidency, Roosevelt was narrowly elected. Roosevelt's success in the governorship brought him overwhelming reelection in 1930 and the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1932. Due to the press of public affairs during this period (1929-33), his visits to Warm Springs were limited to about a month a year.

As President-elect, however, during the Depression winter of 1932-33, he spent two periods at Warm Springs, residing in the newly completed Little White House. A number of important national figures came to confer with him, including Robert Lafollette, Jr., Jacob Coxey, Sam Rayburn, James Byrnes, Burton K. Wheeler, and "Cissy" Patterson. At least two of his future Cabinet members, Cordell Hull and Henry Wallace, were tendered their posts at Warm Springs. Other appointments and patronage matters were arranged there. Yet, in the midst of this flurry of activity, Roosevelt still found time to meet with the Warm Springs trustees.

Following this pattern, on succeeding visits, Roosevelt continued to mix recreation and physical therapy with Foundation, Presidential, and partisan business. He claimed, for example, that certain New Deal programs were inspired by his observations of conditions in the Warm Springs area. For one illustration, he had noticed that electric rates were exorbitantly higher in Warm Springs than in Hyde Park. His enthusiasm for the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), which strove to bring electric power to rural areas at reasonable rates, may thus be said to have begun at Warm Springs. Roosevelt symbolized the connection by signing the REA bill into law at the Little White House.

FDR used Warm Springs as a forum, when he sought, in 1938, to unseat Sen. Walter George of Georgia. This effort was part of his national strategy to replace Democratic Congressmen who were unfavorable to his administration. In Georgia, at least, despite his personal popularity, he was unsuccessful.

During World War II, Roosevelt's visits were few and brief. But, as the struggle neared its end, late in March 1945, he once again returned to Warm Springs. Just back from the Yalta Conference, he planned to work on the address with which he would open the United Nations Conference. He also entertained neighbors and conferred with two important guests,

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Sergio Osmena, the President of the Philippines, to whom he gave assurances of future independence, and Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury. On Thursday, April 12, the day of his death, he had planned to attend an afternoon barbecue given by his Warm Springs friends and then a minstrel show at the hospital.

Today the artifacts of that April day in 1945 are preserved intact at the Little White House. It has become a place of pilgrimage for visitors from all parts of the world. These have included numerous foreign dignitaries, as well as Democratic Presidential candidates John F. Kennedy, who spoke there during his 1960 race, and Jimmy Carter, who, in 1976, opened his general election campaign in front of the building.

Despite the number of memorials to FDR that have been suggested since 1945, the principal formal memorial to him is the modest marble block in front of the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. Placed there in 1965, it was designed in exact accordance with specifications given by the President himself in a conversation with Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter.

Roosevelt did not seem to foreclose memorials of another sort. In fact, he was probably the first President to personally donate his private residences and papers to the public. Thus, in addition to the Little White House, his home at Hyde Park, New York, is in the National Park System and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, in the same community, is operated by the National Archives.

It would seem, moreover, that, in another fashion, the entire Warm Springs Historic District--the Little White House, the hospital, and the treatment pools, none of which would have existed without him--celebrate the humanitarian nature of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

While it is impossible to discuss the Warm Springs Foundation without Franklin D. Roosevelt, its achievements, independent of his involvement, also deserve recognition. The Warm Springs Hospital, as it developed, avoided, as much as possible, the atmosphere of the traditional hospital or sanatorium and tried to create a community that addressed the special physical and psychological needs of polio patients. The Foundation's scope and activities expanded greatly during the years of Roosevelt's governorship and Presidency. Even during the Depression the phenomenal

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fund raising talents of the founders, patients, and supporters of the institution made this growth possible. The President's Birthday Balls, which began in 1934, enlisted broad nonpartisan endorsement and raised great amounts of money for the war on polio, more than a million dollars that first year.

In 1937-38, with Roosevelt's agreement, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, under the directorship of Basil O'Connor, became the organizational umbrella for fund raising activities on behalf of polio patients and for the search for a cure. Its "March of Dimes" contributed to Warm Springs, conducted a nationwide network of local treatment programs, and financed an array of research directed at improving treatment methods and the ultimate goal of devising a vaccine. This work went on until its successful conclusion 10 years after Roosevelt's death.

Credit for the conquest of polio is widely shared. In large part it was due to the generosity of millions of citizens who donated money and time to the Warm Springs Foundation and the March of Dimes. But special acknowledgment is due the courageous and dedicated staff of the Warm Springs Hospital, distinguished scientists like Dr. Jonas Salk, and the patients themselves, who contributed their blood for Dr. Salk's experiments.

Thus, the Warm Springs district is significant for its associations with both Franklin Roosevelt, its founder, and for the important humanitarian movement that had its genesis there. It illustrates a humane way of treating the handicapped and principles of hospital design and administration that facilitate their care and cure. It is a memorial to the efforts of the disabled at self-help and to those who assist them. And, Warm Springs is a living memorial, because it still serves the same humanitarian ends for which it was established.

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[Extensive use was also made of scrapbooks owned by
Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, which chronicle events in Warm Springs
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and minister in Warm Springs for many years.]

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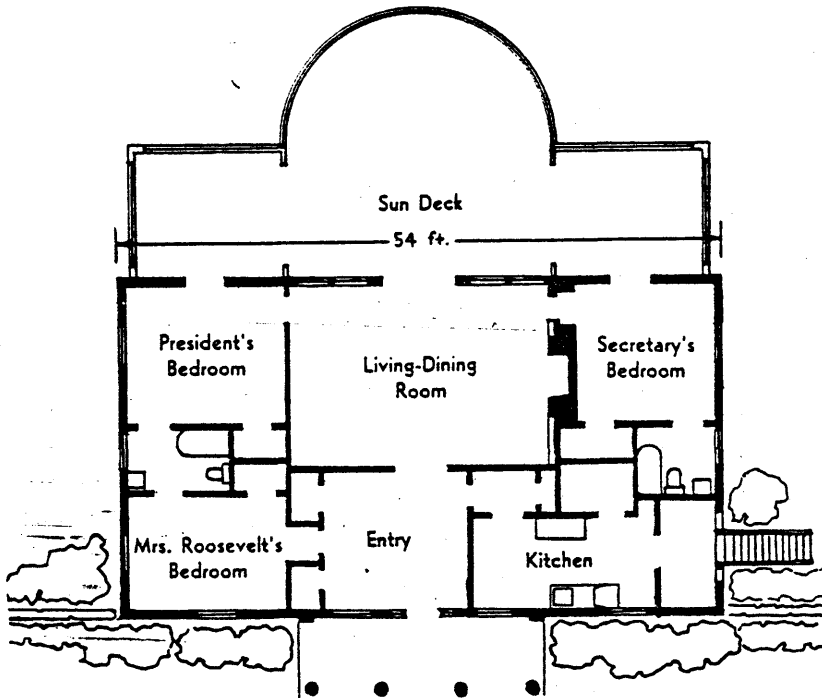
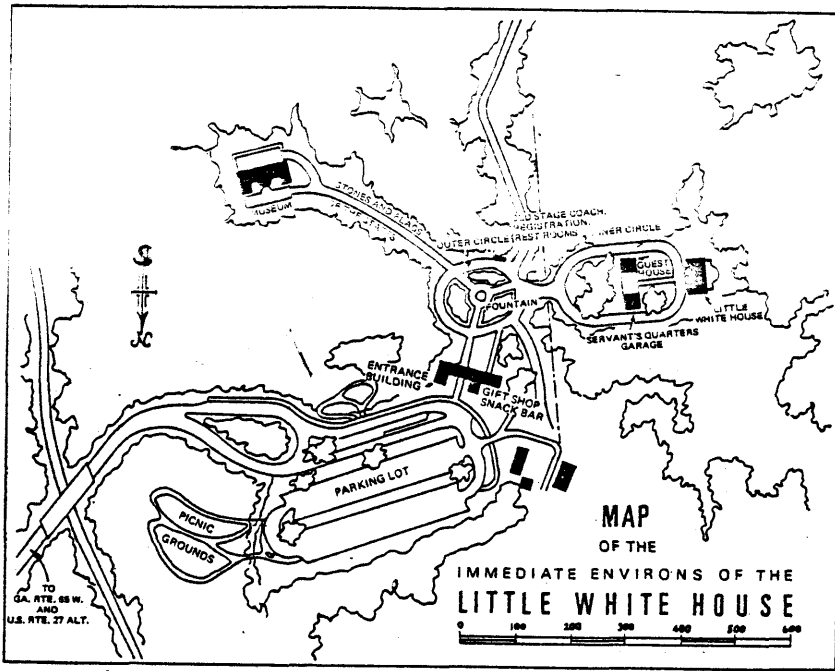
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VERBAL BOUNDARY:

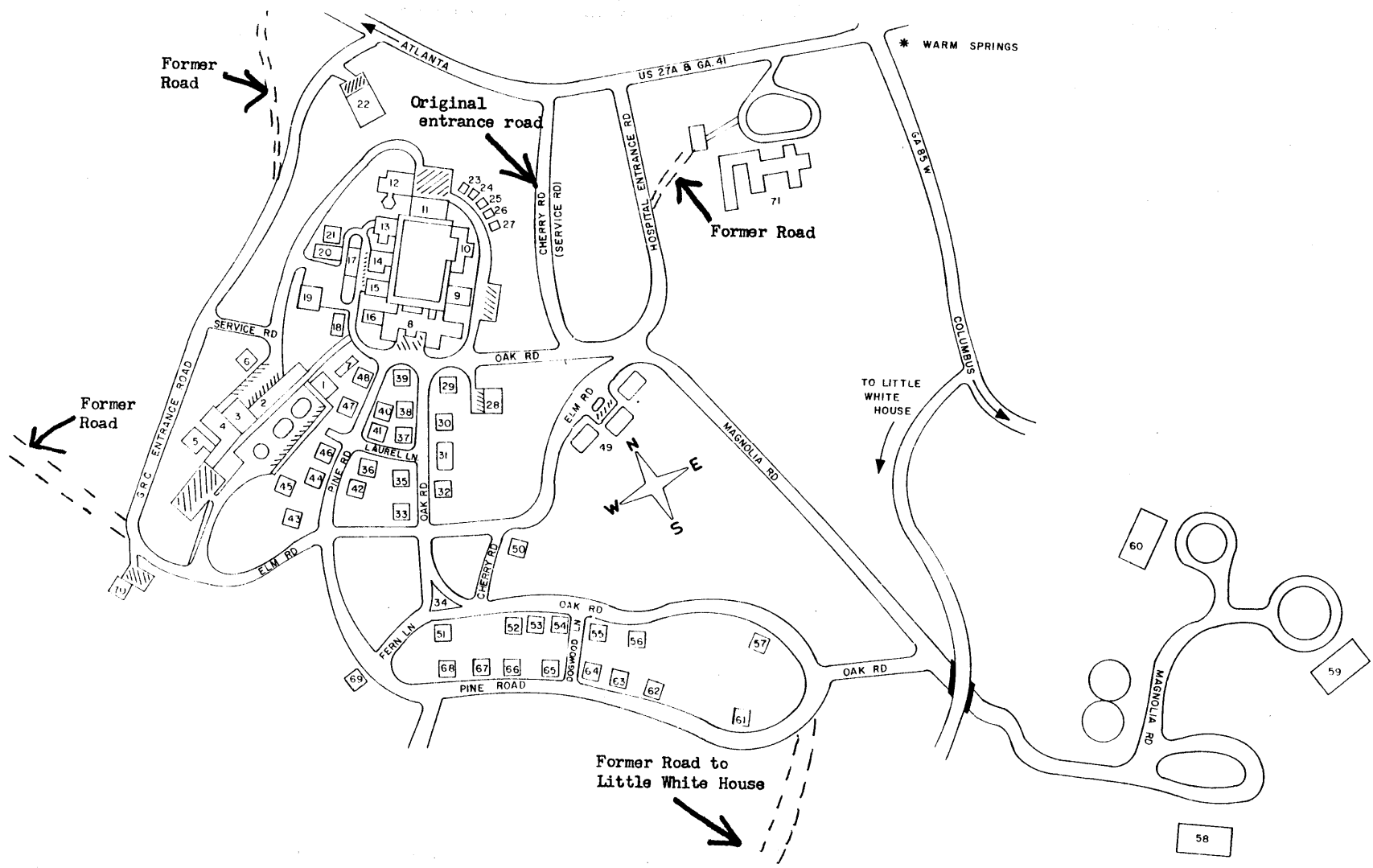
East along Ga. 41 (Alt. U.S. 27) to Hospital Entrance Road. Then south along Hospital Entrance Road to Magnolia Road. South along Magnolia Road to an intersection just northeast of large water tanks. From that point southeast to the 1200 foot contour. Generally following the 1200 foot contour to embrace the immediate vicinity of Huntington, Carpenter, and Keith Morgan Cottages. Then cutting northwest to the 1100 foot contour and along that contour north to a point due west of the aforementioned intersection near the large water tanks. Thus due west to a line extended south from the 1000 foot contour in the immediate vicinity of the Wilson Cottage. Due north along said line to its intersection with Pine Road. Then generally northwest along Pine Road (deviating to include tract enclosing the immediate vicinity of Peabody Cottage) to the intersection of Pine and Elm Roads. Then west along Elm Road to its intersection with the Georgia Rehabilitation Center Access Road, in the vicinity of the Hospital Golf Course Clubhouse. From this point, northwest along an old roadway to its intersection with Ga. 194. From this last intersection east along Ga. 194 to its junction with Ga. 41 (Alt. U.S. 27), i.e., the point of beginning.



Little White House

Floor Plan

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Sketch Plan of the Georgia-Warm Springs Rehabilitation Complex

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