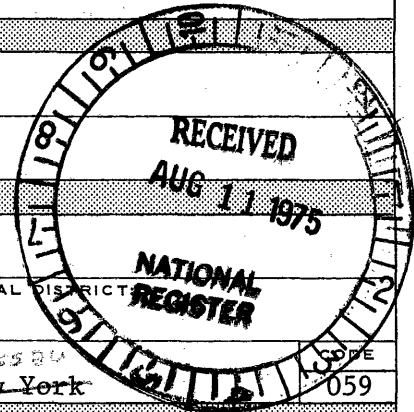


on 7-25-1962

STATE: New York
COUNTY: Nassau
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
\*\* Sagamore Hill National Historic Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Sagamore Hill

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Sagamore Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Oyster Bay

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
13

STATE:  
New York

CODE:  
36

COUNTY:  
Nassau  
New York

CODE:  
059

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

**4. AGENCY**

National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
North Atlantic Region

STREET AND NUMBER:  
150 Causeway Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Boston, Massachusetts

STATE:  
Massachusetts

CODE:  
25

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
240 Old Country Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Mineola

STATE:  
New York

CODE:  
36

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Area Investigation Report

DATE OF SURVEY: July 5-7, 1961  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Branch of History, National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Interior Building 19th and C Street N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D.C.

CODE:  
11

STATE: Massachusetts

COUNTY: Nassau

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built during 1884-85, Sagamore Hill is a solidly built Queen Anne styled structure of frame and brick, the wood siding a mustard color, the bricks red and the trim green. It is a rambling structure consisting of twenty three rooms. On the first floor are a large center hall, the library which served as Theodore Roosevelt's private office, the dining room, the kitchen, and the spacious North Room, added in 1904. On the second floor are the family bedrooms, the nursery, guest rooms and the original bath room. On the top floor is the Gun Room (T.R.'s retreat), Theodore Jr.'s room, the school room, the linen room, the sewing room and the servant's room. Furnishings throughout the house are original Roosevelt pieces. On the south and west side of the house is a spacious porch.

The house is surrounded by landscaped lawn. There are thirty two acres of large, second-growth timber of which oaks are most prominent.

Until the North Room was added in 1904, the house as designed by Rich and Lamb was not changed. After the house was purchased in the early 1950's by the Theodore Roosevelt Association a number of repairs and alterations were required to provide tour circulation for the public and protection to the place and its contents. The present condition is good.

Significance - 1st Order

	lat.		long.
Latitude and Longitude: NW	40° 53' 16"	x	73° 30' 16"
NE	40° 53' 16"	x	73° 29' 24"
SE	40° 53' 01"	x	73° 29' 24"
SW	40° 53' 01"	x	73° 30' 16"

Acreage: 85 acres

Treatment Recommended: Exterior preservation, some interior restoration of 2nd and 3rd floor room finishes.

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$75,000

Photograph enclosed

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| Aboriginal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric<br><input type="checkbox"/> Historic<br><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce<br><input type="checkbox"/> Communications<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industry<br><input type="checkbox"/> Invention<br><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape<br>Architecture<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian<br><input type="checkbox"/> Theater<br><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/> |
|--|---|--|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this site is that it was the home of Theodore Roosevelt from 1885 until his death in 1919.

It was on the wide porch of Sagamore Hill that Roosevelt was formally notified of his nominations as Governor of New York in 1898, as Vice-President in 1900, and as President in 1904.

During the Presidential years Sagamore Hill was the summer White House. Roosevelt met the envoys of Japan and Russia separately in the library and then brought them face to face to inaugurate the Conference that ended in the Treaty of Portsmouth, New Hampshire on Sept. 5, 1905.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- Francis Wilshin, Historic Resource Study, Sagamore Hill (Denver Service Center, 1972)
- Norman M. Souder, Historic Structures Report, Part II, Architectural Data Section, Sagamore Hill (National Park Service, 1964)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	40° 53' 19"	73° 30' 16"	UTM on map			
NE	40° 53' 19"	73° 29' 19"				
SE	40° 53' 01"	73° 29' 19"				
SW	40° 53' 01"	73° 30' 16"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **85 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: <b>Ricardo Torres-Reyes, Historian</b>		DATE: <b>4/15</b>
BUSINESS ADDRESS: <b>North Atlantic Region</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>150 Causeway Street</b>		PHONE:
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Boston</b>		STATE: <b>Massachusetts</b>
		CODE: <b>25</b>

**12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

<p>State Liaison Officer recommendation:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State Liaison Officer Signature</p> <p>In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Federal Representative Signature      Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><b>NHS</b> _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><b>NHS</b> <i>[Signature]</i> _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <b>10/20/76</b></p>
---	--

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New York	
COUNTY Nassau	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued for Sagamore Hill National Historic Site)

There are other frame-structures on the grounds dating from the Presidential years:

1. Grey Cottage (1910), 26' x 2" long and 20'x4" wide, used as a residence by Roosevelt's valet and coachman. The house has undergone a number of mainly interior alterations during the mid 1960's. It is used by the park as a residence. It has been well maintained and, except for the rear (south) side, the exterior appearance (wood clapboard) has been only slightly changed from the original.

Significance : 2nd Order

Treatment recommended: preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above \$2,000/yr.

Photograph enclosed

2. Ice House, an eight sided building of brick and shingles with five feet high brick walls, six inches wide, and asbestos roof shingles. Altered between 1949 - 1953 to accommodate public toilet rooms. It is in good condition

Significance: 2nd Order

Treatment recommended: Restoration

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$1,000

Photograph enclosed

3. New Barn (1907), converted to park residence. Westerly half of building is now used as living quarters, easterly half as garage. Structure has wood sidings and the roof is made of cedarwood shingles. Building contains five rooms, including kitchen and one bath; has also a small screened-in porch and a storage attic. Condition of the building is good.

Significance: 2nd Order

Treatment recommended: preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$1,000/yr.

Photograph enclosed.

4. Carriage House and Tool Shed, wood construction, adjacent structures. Their condition is good.

Significance: 2nd Order

Treatment recommended: preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$1,000/yr.

Photograph enclosed

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New York	
COUNTY Nassau	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued for Sagamore Hill National Historic Site)

(2nd continuation sheet)

5. Gardner's Shed. Its condition is good.

Significance: 2nd Order

Treatment recommended: preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$200/yr.

Photograph enclosed

6. Chicken House, part of building used as tool shed exhibit area, and another as storage for souvenir shop and canteen. Construction is clapboard siding, asphalt shingle roof.

Significance: 2nd Order

Treatment recommended: Restoration

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$30,000

Photograph enclosed.

7. Old Orchard, home of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. built in 1930-1938. A two story brick structure in excellent condition. Built on a four acre tract, once part of Sagamore Hill; used now as park headquarters. Condition of building is good.

Significance: 2nd Order

Recommended treatment: preservation

Preliminary Cost estimates for above: \$3,000/yr.

Photograph enclosed

8. Windmill, ca. 1905, pumped water for Sagamore Hill. Reconstructed in 1971; it has steel wheel on top of a frame of wood about 65' high. Its condition is fairly good.

Significance: 2nd Order

Recommended Treatment: preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$500/yr.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 7 1979  
DATE ENTERED approved 1/31/80

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Sagamore Hill National Historic Site

AND/OR COMMON  
Sagamore Hill

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Sagamore Hill Road

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Oyster Bay

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
New York

CODE

COUNTY  
Nassau

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)  
National Park Service, NARO

STREET & NUMBER  
15 State Street

CITY, TOWN

Boston

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mass.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER  
240 Old Country Road

CITY, TOWN

Mineola

STATE

New York

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Area Investigation Report

DATE  
July 5-7, 1961

FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Branch of History, National Park Service, Interior Building

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

DC

## 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

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, the "Summer White House" of President Theodore Roosevelt, is located in Oyster Bay, New York, on the northwestern shore of Long Island. The 85 acre site of farm and woodland on the Falmouth Moraine commands the highest elevation in the Cove Neck area and has 890 feet of frontage on Cold Spring Harbor. The property, basically L-shaped, is set in a terrain dominated by the coves, necks, spits and bays of the Long Island Sound.

The area surrounding the Site is primarily estate land of the village of Cove Neck. Though it is no longer as isolated as during the Roosevelts' residency, the surroundings are still moderately wooded with many small stands of old growth deciduous forest. At Oyster Bay, 2.8 miles west, are large sand and gravel quarries. Some land east of the Falmouth Moraine is still farmed. The eastern portion of the property (consisting of approximately 32 acres) has old second growth cover, chiefly oak and tulips, with a shallow freshwater pond, a salt marsh and creek, and about 900 feet of beach fronting on Cold Spring Harbor. A variety of birds, water fowl, and small mammals can be found within the area. This eastern portion of the park is being used, since 1968, as a National Environmental Study area.

The nearest urban centers are Hicksville (pop. 51,000), located ten miles south, and Huntington (pop. 12,000), in adjoining Suffolk County about seven miles to the east. New York City is 29 miles to the west.

Roosevelt began the construction of Sagamore Hill in 1884 on land purchased the year before from Thomas Youngs of Oyster Bay for \$10,000 cash, a mortgage for \$20,000 and the right "to remove the growing crops, and the crops stored in the farm barn," then the only building on the property.

A rough sketch map drawn by Roosevelt shortly after the estate purchase identifies main features such as roads, fields, woodlands, an orchard, fences, crops growing there, ponds and a spring. It indicates that the farm was in operation at the time and that the land was well suited to growing fruits and vegetables. In addition to a barn and orchard, the map shows a cornfield, a field of buckwheat and an asparagus bed. The northeast section of the property is identified as "cedar hill." This is located directly east of the orchard which is, in turn, east of the cornfield. The southeast and a major part of the southern portion of the property is identified as woodland. In addition to the cornfield, two other fields are shown--one some distance south of the barn, the other in the southwest section of the property. A road is shown running through the approximate center of the property. This is bisected by a road that passes just west of the barn to connect with a road that skirts the field of buckwheat on the north. Two ponds are identified, one in the north central part of the property, later named the "woodpile pond," and the other in the southeast corner, later called the "lower lake." A frog spring is shown in the north central section of "cedar hill." (Sagamore Hill NHS files)

The house that Theodore Roosevelt built in 1884-85 is quite free from later alterations with the exception of an addition, the North Room, made by the Roosevelts in 1905. The house is sited on the crest of a hill that, in Roosevelt's day, provided



# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" 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 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lamb & Rich

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sagamore Hill is historically significant as the estate of Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States, who lived in this house from 1884 until his death in January, 1919. On the wide, shaded porch of Sagamore Hill, Roosevelt was formally notified of his nominations as Governor of New York in 1898, as Vice President in 1900, and as President in 1904. While Roosevelt served in the Presidency from 1901-1909, Sagamore Hill became the "Summer White House." A notable event in diplomatic history occurred during the summer of 1905 at Sagamore Hill when Roosevelt met envoys of Russia and Japan separately in the library for conferences that preceded negotiations at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, that resulted in the Treaty of Portsmouth on September 5, 1905, ending the Russo-Japanese War.

As well as its significant historical associations, Sagamore Hill is a distinguished architectural work, representing a transitional period in American architectural development. The Queen Anne details, strongly influenced by prevailing European tastes, were lavishly superimposed on an emerging and distinctly American articulation of mass. The voluminous massing and horizontality of the design, further enhanced by the sensitive LaFarge addition, are certainly of an exemplary nature.

The house's setting, astride a hill surrounded by lawns and deciduous forests, reflects Roosevelt's great love of nature and outdoor activity. A contemporary journalist observed, "One reason why Sagamore Hill has such great charm for the President... is that to use his own expression, 'he doesn't live in his neighbor's pocket.'" (Maurice Low, Saturday Evening Post, October 11, 1902) The grounds and the forests were the setting for the rambles and outdoor activities that Roosevelt is famous for and which his children, nephews and nieces delighted in, particularly when he would drop the affairs of state at their urging to join them. Three of his children were born there and all six grew up in the idyllic setting.

Within the park is a collection of momentos, gifts, hunting trophies, furniture, furnishings and other memorabilia that lend Sagamore Hill its distinctive character and are inextricably associated with the historic structure and the personality of Theodore Roosevelt. These objects give a fascinating and intimate insight into the various aspects of a truly singular life, and are as much a part of the historic scene as the joists, rafters and roof-boards of the Theodore Roosevelt home itself.

Mrs. Roosevelt lived at the house until her death in 1948. The careful preservation of Sagamore Hill and its collection assures, in accordance with the family's wishes, that a visitor feels the Roosevelts have stepped out for a moment and will return shortly. Sagamore Hill National Historic Site preserves a comfortably informal and intimate visit into the life of a great man.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Souder, Norman "Historic Structures Report Part II Architectural Data Section: Sagamore Hill" National Park Service, 1964

Wilshin, Francis "Historic Resource Study, Sagamore Hill" (Denver Service Center, 1972)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 85

UTM REFERENCES

A	1.8	6	2.6	2.0	0	4.5	2.7	1.8	0	B	1.8	6	2.7	2.0	0	4.5	2.7	0.4	0		
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		ZONE		EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C	1.8	6	2.7	2.0	0	4.5	2.6	8.0	0	D	1.8	6	2.6	0.0	0	4.5	2.6	6.8	0		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Bronwyn Krog, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

NARO

STREET & NUMBER

15 State Street

CITY OR TOWN

Boston,

DATE

10/2/78

TELEPHONE

223-3778

STATE

Mass.

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

*Bronwyn Krog Acting*  
*Acting Ass't Dir Cultural Resources*

DATE

1/24/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carol R. Stull*

DATE

1-31-80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Myra A. Beebe*

DATE

Jan. 30, 1980

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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MAY 7 1979

DATE ENTERED

approved 1/31/80

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE TWO

a commanding view in every direction, sweeping west to Oyster Bay and north to Long Island Sound. Some of this view is still visible from the third floor. The house is surrounded by extensive landscaped lawns beyond which, in all directions, are acres of large second-growth timber, primarily oak. The belts of woodland, interspersed with fields, separate the house and its ancillary buildings from all others.

The greater portion of the Sagamore Hill estate was woodland during Roosevelt's lifetime with the areas under cultivation varying with the seasons and good farming practices. There were at times, however, as many as forty acres of the full ninety-five being farmed.

The Sagamore Hill property was acquired by the Theodore Roosevelt Association in 1950, together with the furnishings and belongings accumulated by the Roosevelt family throughout the years.

The Association opened the house to the public in 1953. In July 1963 the Theodore Roosevelt Association donated the property to the United States government. It thereby became Sagamore Hill National Historic Site. The house and its contents, as well as the grounds, continue to be carefully preserved in like manner to when Theodore Roosevelt and his family lived there.

The most significant historic structures of the Site are as follows:

1. Sagamore Hill (No. NS1) (Constructed in 1885)

Theodore Roosevelt had Sagamore Hill built in 1884-85 at a cost of \$16,975.00. He commissioned the New York architects, Lamb and Rich, to design his new house in Oyster Bay, but a great many of his own ideas were incorporated into the design. Roosevelt wrote:

... I did not know enough to be sure what I wished in outside matters. But 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 insofar as my money permitted; and then Rich put on the outside cover with but little help from me. I wished a big piazza, very broad at the N.W. corner where we could sit in rocking chairs and look at the sunset; a library with a shallow bay window opening south; the parlor or drawing room occupying all the western end of the lower floor; as broad a hall as our space would permit; big fireplaces for logs; on the top floor the gun room occupying the western end so that north and west it looks over the sound and bay. 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. (Letter by Theodore Roosevelt to Henry H. Saylor editor of Country Life in America dated 3 October 1915).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

*approved*  
1/31/80

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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The result is a solidly constructed frame and red brick structure which is in both plan and detail, a typical of the then popular Queen Anne architectural expressions that were contemporary and entirely appropriate to its location, architects and occupants.

The house is a large-scaled, rambling two-and-one-half stories with an attic and full basement, although from the interior there is a full third story. The foundations are twenty inches thick with joists, rafters and roof-boards that match the same massive proportions. The foundations and the raised basement are of local stone, mica schist, which is laid in squared rubble fashion.

The house features prominent gables, dormers, verandahs and a porte-cochere. The asymmetrical massing of the house is, in the context of latter nineteenth century architecture, turning toward a more horizontal and yet picturesque expression. The house has big open volumes, crowned by wide gable ends and dormers that reach outward expensively and not upwards, as in earlier Victorian styles. The shingles of the upper stories form a continuous skin that ties the varied planes and decorative shingle work into a smoothly flowing whole. This house's high voluminous roof and multi-directional massing characterize the change to the horizontal in design.

The house has many Queen Anne details on the exterior. The common bond red brick skin that covers the first floor and the mustard-colored and dark green-trimmed second and top floors provide fashionable latter nineteenth century color contrasts. There are terra-cotta sunflower medallion window decorations, sawn-wood ornament, a shaped verandah, imitation half-timbering in several dormer gables, all of which are expressions of the Queen Anne style. The gable and dormer ends are covered with a combination of clapboards and shingles that are wave and curved-end cut.

The verandah extends from the porte-cochere on the south facade around the west side where it widens to 18'6" and forms an outdoor sitting room, shaded by a large awning. There is a sawn-wood balustrade at the outer edge which continues with the verandah for a short distance along the west side of the north wing. A lattice-sided service porch with an openwork top is off the staff's kitchen and another porch is on the east side of the house. A small shingled porch and two decks open off the President's bedroom, bathroom and a Guest Room, respectively.

Window styles are varied, ranging from large single light sash to leaded, stained glass sash. Many upper sash are divided into small paned patterns. Two-over-two light sash are used in the service areas. Most of the windows on the first and second floors are fitted with exterior blinds. Three ones on the third floor have been removed since 1953.

The house and porch roofs on Sagamore Hill were originally covered with wood shingles which were later covered over with asbestos shingles in 1950-52.

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The three massive chimneys on the main part of the house are decorated with elaborate checkered brick panels, achieved by recessing alternate bricks of a header-laid pattern, and each has lancet-like slots set below the raised and corbelled band course. The North Room chimney has the same scale and mass without the decorative treatment.

Sagamore Hill consists of twenty-three rooms. On the first floor are a large oak paneled and beamed entrance and stair hall, the library which served as Theodore Roosevelt's private office, the dining room, drawing room, kitchen (behind which was a laundry room), a pantry, and the spacious North Room added in 1905. On the second floor are the family and guest bedrooms, the nursery, an original bathroom and three later ones. The stair hall is centrally located and is lighted by a stained glass skylight. The rear (service) stair extends from the basement to the third floor. On the top floor is the Gun Room, Theodore Jr.'s room, the schoolroom, linen room, sewing room, and the cook's room and two maids' rooms. The unfinished attic was reached by a ship's ladder stair in a third floor closet.

The interior finish of the house is typical of the period. Most of the interior woodwork in the form of heavy oak paneling, wainscoting and elaborate mantels, is stained and varnished and most of the walls are covered with reproduction wallpaper of the general period.

The North Room (40' x 30'), designed by architect C. Grant LaFarge, was added to the house in 1905 in response to the President's need for a large, dignified room to receive the groups of delegates and distinguished visitors who visited Sagamore Hill. The exterior of the North Room blends well with the remainder of the house in that the walls are red brick and the shingled gable is similar to the gables on the house. A plaster or composition eagle and wreath decoration, by Gutzon Borglum, is set on a wood panel on the gable.

Joining the room to the north side of the house meant taking away a prominent entrance there and placing it from the west side of the hall to the porch. The room was built with two steps down from the entrance hall to a landing and with two more steps down to the room from each end of the landing. Built entirely of American and Philippine wood, the room with a high ceiling is a monochrome of luminous soft red-brown. The mantelpiece is of carmagon wood from the Philippines, the ceiling of American swamp cypress and hazel. The black walnut Ionic columns, set in pairs against all four walls, heighten the dignity of the room. The North Room also has a bold textured wallpaper of red and gold which is the only original wallpaper remaining in the house.

Until the North Room was added, the house as designed by Lamb and Rich was unchanged. After the property was purchased by the Theodore Roosevelt Association in 1950, a number of alterations were made in various parts of the house to provide for circulation of visitors and for the protection of the house and its contents.

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The narrow hall that leads to the kitchen was straightened; the dumbwaiter and the stairs to the cellar from the kitchen were remodeled in conjunction with this alteration. In this same area the stairway from outside the kitchen door to this hall was changed from a narrow curved stairway to a stairway with two landings to accommodate the curve.

The room on the east of the kitchen, formerly the laundry, is an office for the Park Technician. The small service porch off the kitchen on the north was enclosed and made into a staff kitchen; steps from this to the outside face east.

There were changes also in the room on the second floor known as Alice's room and in the adjoining hall during the Association's restoration.

Because of using the third floor rooms as exhibit areas, one entirely new stairway, needed for better traffic circulation, was built from the second to the third floor on the northwest side of the house. The stairway from the second to the third floor on the southeast side of the house was widened. Metal louvres were added on the north and south sides of the attic when a large fan was installed.

The original wood shingled roof was covered with asbestos shingles while the interior alterations were being carried out.

Since 1963, the NPS has restored the top floor rooms as closely as possible to their appearance when the Roosevelts lived at Sagamore Hill. The restorations have included that of the original linen room, removal of false partitions, refinishing of varnished woodwork which had been painted, papering of rooms from which wallpaper had been removed, etc.

2. Gray Cottage (No. HS 2) (Constructed in 1910)

The Gray Cottage is a small wood frame clapboarded building which was built in 1910 to house the Roosevelts' coachman and valet and their families. It was divided into two apartments, one on each side of the house. It has been well maintained and except for the rear south side, the exterior is only slightly altered from its original appearance. In 1953 the house underwent a restoration, and a number of interior alterations were made during the 1960's for an adaptive reuse of the structure as a Park Service residence.

The Gray Cottage is a rectangular block 26'2" x 20', and is two-and-one-half stories with a medium pitch gable roof. The center of the front facade has a small enclosed storm porch with a shed roof. While the porch may not have been enclosed originally, there is evidence that it was done at a very early stage in the history of the house. There was, in addition, a rear porch which has since been removed. The house is modestly detailed with wooden corner boards and eaves returns.

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It has a full basement with poured concrete walls which are presumably reinforced, given that there is no evidence of cracking or unequal settlement. There is also an attic which is accessible by means of a staircase placed above the flight of stairs to the second story.

There are four symmetrically placed sash windows in each facade with wooden shutters and each gable end has a smaller window to light the attic. The roof now has a covering of wood shingles, which was probably the original roofing material.

3. Ice House (No. HS 3) (Constructed in 1885)

The Ice House is an octagonal building of red brick, walled to a height of five feet and capped by a very steep, pointed, asbestos shingled roof (Probably wooden originally). The building had a wooden floor originally and has since been adapted into use as public washrooms.

4. New Barn (No. HS 4) (Constructed in 1907)

When Roosevelt first bought the Sagamore Hill estate, the only standing structure was the Old Barn, which later was used not only for farming and carriage horses but as an adventure playground by the President, his children and the numerous cousins from nearby. When this building, estimated to be nearly a century old, collapsed in 1904, the New Barn was eventually built to replace it in 1907. The foundation stones of the Old Barn still remain. The New Barn is a wooden frame structure with asphalt shingled gambrel roof and with a partial basement. It had a large central opening, sliding doors and a cupola atop to provide ventilation.

It has been altered inside to serve as a park residence and garage. It now has five rooms, including a kitchen and one bath, and, also has a small screened porch and storage attic.

5. Carriage House and Tool Shed (Nos. HS 5 and 6) (Construction date unknown)

The Carriage House and Tool Shed are adjacent wooden frame structures, clapboarded and with shingled gable roofs. Both are one and one half stories, have overhanging eaves and wooden corner boards.

The Carriage House is oriented to the gable end and has two large flushboard doors with crossbracing and metal hinges.

6. Gardener's Shed (No. HS 7) (Construction date unknown)

The Gardener's Shed is a simple frame building with wooden board-and-batten siding, a shingled gable roof with a diamond shaped window in each gable end.

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7. Chicken House (No. HS 8) (Construction date unknown)

The Chicken House is of frame construction with clapboard siding and an asphalt shingle roof. Part of the building is now used as a tool shed exhibit area and part is a storage area for the souvenir shop and snack bar.

8. Windmill (No. HS 9) (Construction in ca. 1884-86; reconstructed in 1971)

The original windmill, constructed ca. 1884-86, pumped water for the Sagamore Hill estate. The present windmill is a 1971 reconstruction built to replace what was an essential part of the estate when Theodore Roosevelt lived there. It has a steel propeller on top of a wooden structure about 65' high.

There are other minor historic features on the Site related to the historic period (1884-1919). The Stable and Lodge, built prior to 1884, burned in 1947, and the stone foundations were covered with earth. The foundation is believed to be intact except for two large stones that were removed to accommodate a water line. The wood post-and-rail fences generally follow the historic fence line. The fence around the formal garden does not conform to the historic location because of the existence of the modern entrance road and parking area.

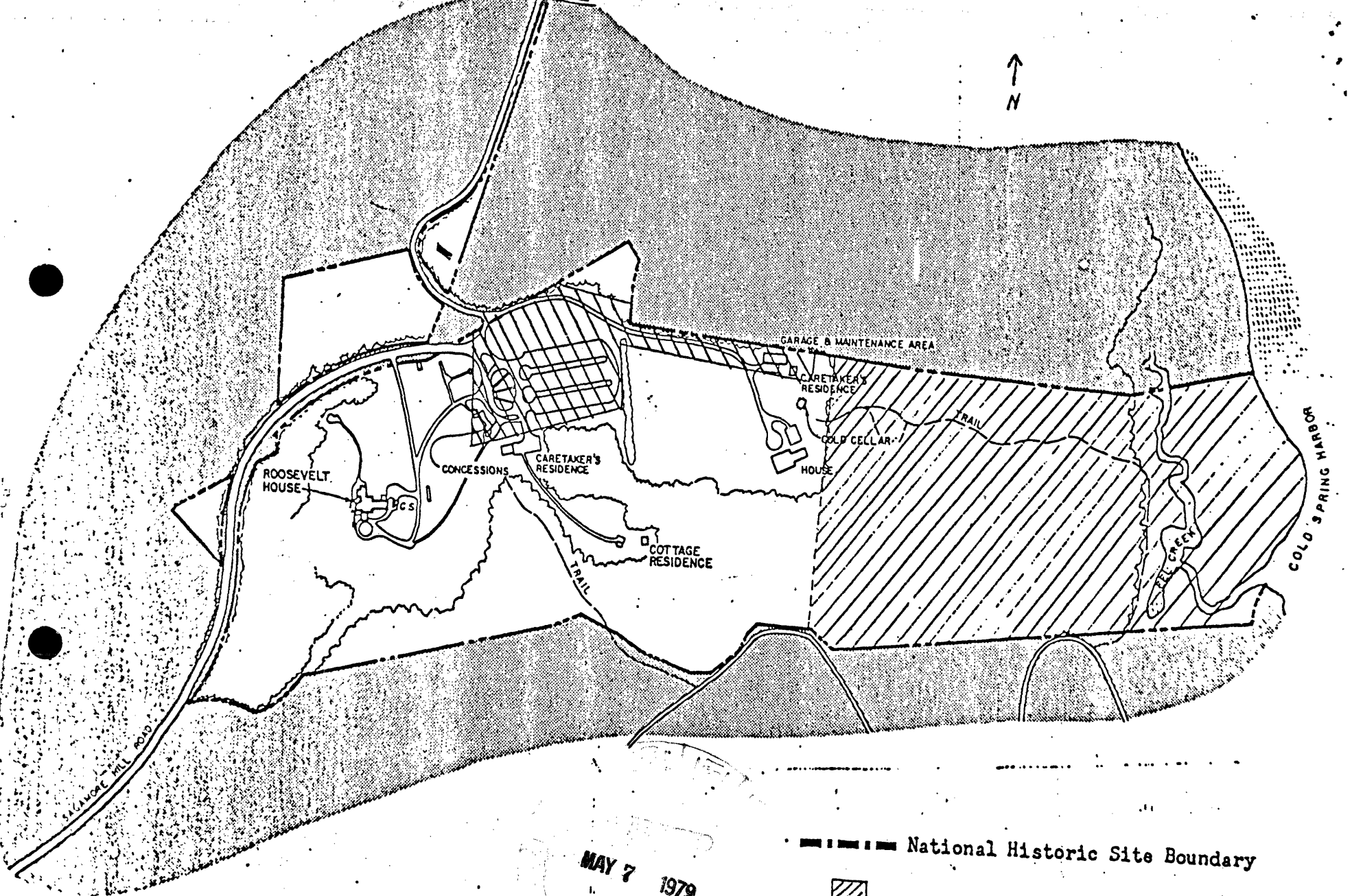
There are four original "TR" landmarks: a carved entrance stone, a carved pet cemetery stone, and two gate stones along with two stone and masonry retaining walls at the original entrance. Quentin Roosevelt's grave marker (brought from his grave in France) is also located near the house.

A Development Subzone contains several structures not related to the Roosevelt period:


1. Concession facility--constructed in 1951--this structure houses a gift shop and snack bar.
2. Kiosk--a summer and weekend information station built in 1968.
3. Maintenance building--built in 1938--this structure includes garages and work areas for the park maintenance staff and a two-bedroom apartment.
4. Foreman's Cottage--also built in 1938--this building is now used as a residence.


Another structure not associated with the life of Roosevelt is Old Orchard. This two-story Georgian home with brick veneer and slate shingle roof was built in 1938 by Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. The interior has been adapted to accommodate administrative offices, museum exhibits and residential quarters. The exterior retains its original appearance.





----- National Historic Site Boundary

 National Environmental Study Area

 Development Sub-zone

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