



# Foundation Document

## Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site

New York

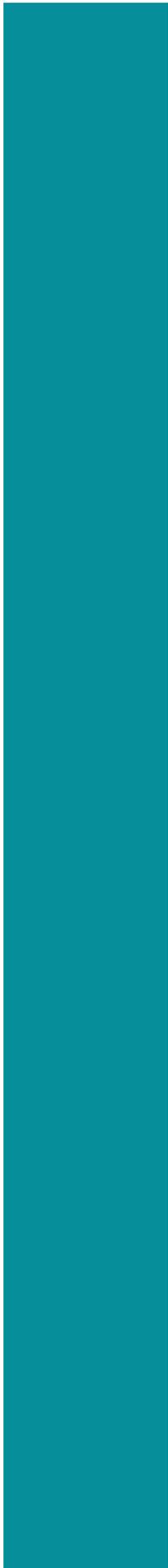
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## Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



*The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.*

## Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



## Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

### Brief Description of the Park

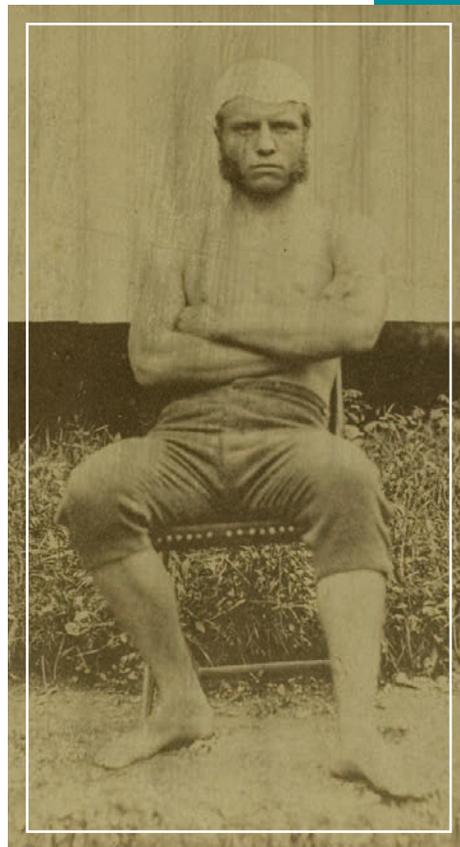
Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site is in the Gramercy Park area of Manhattan at 28 East 20th Street. The 0.11-acre site is occupied by a building rebuilt on the exterior as if it were two, four-story adjoining brownstone townhouses. On the interior, the two townhouses are connected as one.

The building is a 1923 reconstruction of the birthplace and childhood home of the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., who was born at the site on October 27, 1858, and lived there until he was 14 years old. The interior reflects the atmosphere of the original birthplace through five period rooms of mid-19th century design and furniture, including original Roosevelt family items. The rest of the building contains museum galleries, a library, an auditorium, and support facilities.

Reconstructing the birthplace was the responsibility of the Women's Roosevelt Memorial Association with funding and support from the Roosevelt Memorial Association. In creating a site to perpetuate Theodore Roosevelt's ideals and memory, the association also created a site that is a significant example of the development of historic preservation efforts in the United States. The reconstruction of the birthplace was designed by one of America's first female architects, Theodate Pope Riddle. The construction techniques, materials, and mechanical systems represent 1920's museum design, 1920's technology, and fine workmanship.

The reconstruction of the exterior and the period rooms within it was based on the memories of Theodore Roosevelt's two sisters, Anna Cowles and Corrinne Roosevelt Robinson, and his second wife, Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt, who had been familiar with the original house. The women were instrumental in determining spatial configuration, wall and floor finishes, furnishings, and furniture placement in the rooms. The restoration was also based on house descriptions from Roosevelt's autobiography and the townhouse next door that had belonged to Roosevelt's uncle and was still extant when the reconstruction began. Original elements from that home, which was identical to the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace, were incorporated into the reconstruction.

The site opened to the public on October 27, 1923. The focus of the building was the five recreated period rooms: the parlor, library, dining room, nursery, and master bedroom. Museum galleries were filled with Roosevelt memorabilia and exhibits pertaining to Roosevelt's life, career, and politics. A library was filled with a collection of Roosevelt books and other research material. The auditorium was used for association meetings, patriotic organization meetings, and social events. The Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace was established as a national historic site in 1962 and donated to the National Park Service in 1963. The five recreated period rooms remain open for visitation and interpretation as well as a museum and exhibit space in the basement level of the structures.



## Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on July 25, 1962 (see appendix A for enabling legislation). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

*The purpose of THEODORE ROOSEVELT BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to preserve and interpret the site of Theodore Roosevelt's birthplace and commemorate his life through the interpretation of his early childhood and ability to overcome physical limitations and adversity to become one of the world's most influential men of his time.*



## Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

1. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., 26th president of the United States, was born on October 27, 1858, at 28 East 20th Street in Manhattan where he would spend the first 14 years of his life. His experiences there dramatically shaped and molded his life.
2. Envisioned, designed, and created by the Women's Roosevelt Memorial Association and noted architect Theodate Pope Riddle, the reconstructed brownstone townhouses serve as a memorialization of Theodore Roosevelt. Built shortly after Roosevelt's death, the structures are a recreation of Roosevelt's childhood home based on descriptions from Roosevelt's autobiography and the memories of other Roosevelt family members.
3. The original furnishings and extensive related collections are a tribute to Roosevelt's widespread interests and accomplishments in local, state, national, and international affairs; conservation; and the expansion of the national park system.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site:

- **Theodore Roosevelt Birth Site and Reconstructed Townhouses.** On East 20th Street in Manhattan, Roosevelt's birthplace site now contains the reconstructed brownstone townhouse designed as a memorial and place to interpret Roosevelt's ideals and legacies and an adjacent support structure. The reconstructed townhouses contain five period rooms, two museum galleries and other museum functions, a library, auditorium, storage, and a bookstore.
- **Museum Collections.** The collections include manuscripts, published books and articles, cartoons, and photographs, as well as many of Roosevelt's letters and journals. Also included are original historic objects and furnishings from Roosevelt's childhood home, as well as other objects from his later life.
- **Collaborative Partnerships.** Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site is the result of continuous collaborative efforts to reconstruct, decorate, donate, and finally designate the site as a unit of the national park system. Collaboration between the National Park Service and the Theodore Roosevelt Association continues through preservation and management efforts today.

## Related Resources

Related resources are not owned by the park. They may be part of the broader context or setting in which park resources exist, represent a thematic connection that would enhance the experience of visitors, or have close association with park fundamental resources and the purpose of the park. The related resource represents a connection with the park that often reflects an area of mutual benefit or interest, and collaboration, between the park and owner/stakeholder.

The following related resources have been identified for Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site:

- **Other Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Sites.** Other sites that pay tribute to Theodore Roosevelt include Sagamore Hill National Historic Site; Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site; American Museum of Natural History's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Hall; Theodore Roosevelt National Park; Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, DC; and Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

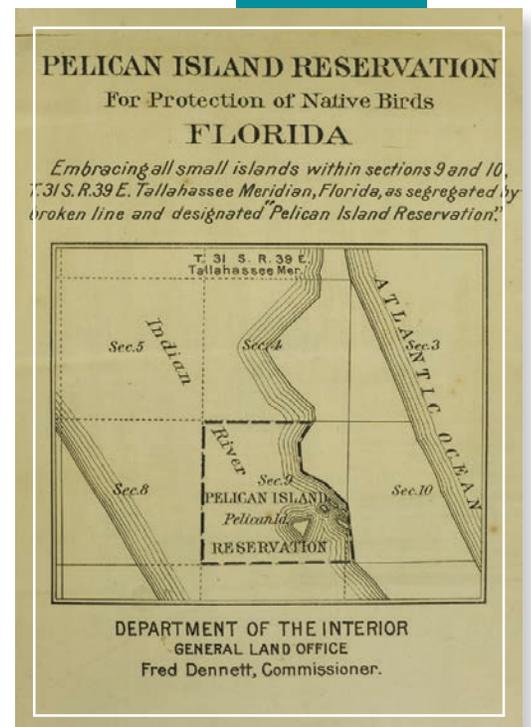
## Interpretive Themes

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 park significance statements and fundamental resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site:

- **Overcoming Adversity.** The comfort and opportunities inherent in the wealthy, Victorian-era home and family life that Roosevelt experienced as a youth helped him overcome a potentially limiting childhood illness and develop into an intellectually and physically bold adult who welcomed and successfully navigated numerous challenges in his public life. That same intrepid and ambitious approach to life developed in his youth led him to build a successful political career in spite of the restrictions common to members of the upper class in the late 19th century.
- **The Conservation Movement.** Roosevelt's insatiable scientific curiosity, his appreciation of nature, and his life as an avid outdoorsman and explorer, all instilled in boyhood, largely contributed to his role as a leader of the conservation movement, culminating in his pioneering work as president in setting national standards for the preservation of cultural and natural resources.
- **Theodore Roosevelt as Reformer.** Roosevelt's strong beliefs in merit, achievement, and progress based on empirical evidence and the scientific method as applied to social problems laid the foundation for his career as a reformer and were dramatically articulated throughout his public life, beginning with his role as a state legislator, through his term as 26th president of the United States.
- **Vision for America's Future.** Heralding a vision of America as a world power and an equitable society at home, President Roosevelt guided the United States into the 20th century while creating a modern model of the presidency as the center of the nation's political life.
- **Preservation of Childhood Home.** Foreshadowing the idea of the modern presidential library, what is now Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site was established by two private historical organizations, the Women's Roosevelt Memorial Association and the Theodore Roosevelt Association, as a combined museum and research facility that would illustrate the environment that influenced Roosevelt's youth and serve to perpetuate the memory, legacy, and political principles of the nation's 26th president.



## Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

### Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site.

#### Special Mandates

- Legislated Advisory Committee (July 25, 1962) Section 5 of Public Law (PL) 87-547 (the park’s enabling legislation) states that “the Theodore Roosevelt Association, having by its patriotic Advisor and active interest preserved for posterity these important historic sites, buildings, and objects, shall, upon establishment of the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace... be consulted by the Secretary of the Interior in the establishment of an advisory committee or committees for matters relating to the preservation, development, and management of the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace (PL 87-547, sec 5).”

#### Administrative Commitments

For more information about the administrative commitments for Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site, please see appendix B.

### Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park’s fundamental resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park’s planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

## Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

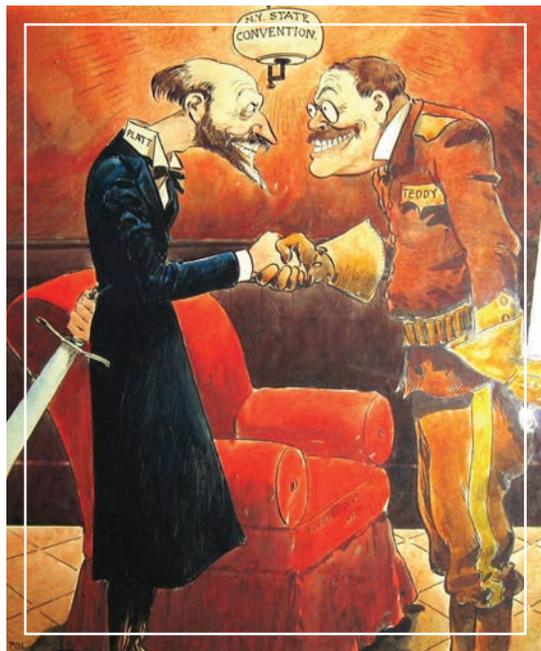
| Fundamental Resource or Value                     | Theodore Roosevelt Birth Site and Reconstructed Townhouses  |
|---|---|
| <b>Related Significance Statements</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., 26th president of the United States, was born on October 27, 1858, at 28 East 20th Street in Manhattan where he would spend the first 14 years of his life. His experiences there dramatically shaped and molded his life.</li> <li>Envisioned, designed, and created by the Women's Roosevelt Memorial Association and noted architect Theodate Pope Riddle, the reconstructed brownstone townhouses serve as a memorialization of Theodore Roosevelt. Built shortly after Roosevelt's death, the structures are a recreation of Roosevelt's childhood home based on descriptions from Roosevelt's autobiography and the memories of other Roosevelt family members.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>              | <p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reconstructed townhouses are in good condition. Upgrades to fire suppression and electrical systems were completed in 2016.</li> <li>All visitor use levels of the townhouses are accessible (including restrooms).</li> <li>The townhouses do not have central air conditioning systems. Window units provide cooled air during the summer months. The ventilation fans do not work.</li> <li>The reproduction carpet and wallpaper is old and worn and needs to be replaced.</li> <li>Modern fixtures should be removed and replaced with period lighting that is more appropriate for the space.</li> <li>The interpreted areas of the townhouses are furnished with period-appropriate pieces.</li> <li>The interpreted rooms are small and cannot accommodate large tour groups.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The historic site's primary visitor base is aging and visitation is slowly declining.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Threats and Opportunities</b>                  | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rodents build nests in the front entryway gardens, ruining the flower beds. So far, rodents have not gained access to the interior of the townhouses.</li> <li>Loitering is frequently a problem outside the townhouses. Nearby business employees gather on the townhouse steps to smoke, eat, and/or drink coffee. Homeless individuals frequently use the privacy of the front stoop to sleep, urinate, or defecate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an interest in Theodore Roosevelt among youth groups by increasing school programs and other outreach methods.</li> <li>Open the auditorium for special events as it has been used in the past (speaking events or other events related to the park's purpose and significance). Review the historic leasing program for long-term use of the space.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource management plan (1988).</li> <li>Historic structure report (2008).</li> <li>Long-range interpretive plan (2009).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitor use study.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Planning Needs</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic structure report (update).</li> <li>Cyclical maintenance plan.</li> <li>Housekeeping plan for museum collections.</li> </ul>  |

| Fundamental Resource or Value  | Theodore Roosevelt Birth Site and Reconstructed Townhouses  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> | <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990</li> <li>• Architectural Barriers Act of 1968</li> <li>• Clean Air Act of 1977</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</li> <li>• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> <li>• "Accessibility Guidelines" (36 CFR 1191.1)</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 7) "Interpretation and Education"</li> <li>• Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings</i></li> </ul> |



| <b>Fundamental Resource or Value</b>              | <b>Museum Collections</b>  |
|---|--|
| <b>Related Significance Statements</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The original furnishings and extensive related collections are a tribute to Roosevelt's widespread interests and accomplishments in local, state, national, and international affairs; conservation; and the expansion of the national park system.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>              | <p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collections and archival material are in reasonably good condition, but an updated collection management plan is needed to address storage concerns.</li> <li>Recent improvements to the structure's fire suppression and electrical systems provide additional protection to the collection.</li> <li>Period rooms are heated and have individual air conditioners (window units), but climate control for the collection is not up to NPS collection storage standards. Funding has not been identified to upgrade environmental controls in the structure; a large-scale project of this type would require dismantling the exhibitions and closing the facility for at least one year.</li> <li>There is secure space in the townhouses for some of the more durable items of the collection to be stored on-site.</li> <li>Display case glass in the museum is not safety glass and should be replaced with a nonbreakable material.</li> <li>The accuracy of the collection database is poor. A complete inventory has never been completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The historic site's primary visitor base is aging and visitation is slowly declining.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Threats and Opportunities</b>                  | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NPS Northeast Museum Services Center recommends expanding the partnership with Sagamore Hill National Historic Site to consolidate the two parks' collections into a single intellectual unit. Co-locating the stored collections at Sagamore Hill will provide consistent curation and appropriate museum management conditions.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource management plan (1988).</li> <li>Collection storage plan (1990).</li> <li>Collection condition survey (1993).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitor use study.</li> <li>Interior Collections Management System (update).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Planning Needs</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated pest management plan.</li> <li>Housekeeping plan for museum collections.</li> <li>Emergency operations plan.</li> <li>Collection management plan (update).</li> <li>Scope of collections statement (update).</li> </ul>  |

| Fundamental Resource or Value   | Museum Collections  |
|---|---|
| <p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p> | <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79)</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended</li> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (§8.10) "Natural and Cultural Studies, Research, and Collection Activities"</li> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>• NPS Museum Handbook, parts I, II, and III</li> </ul> |



| Fundamental Resource or Value   | Collaborative Partnerships  |
|---|---|
| <b>Related Significance Statements</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Envisioned, designed, and created by the Women’s Roosevelt Memorial Association and noted architect Theodate Pope Riddle, the reconstructed brownstone townhouses serve as a memorialization of Theodore Roosevelt. Built shortly after Roosevelt’s death, the structures are a recreation of Roosevelt’s childhood home based on descriptions from Roosevelt’s autobiography and the memories of other Roosevelt family members.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>  | <p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Theodore Roosevelt Association partners with the National Park Service to raise interest in Roosevelt’s legacy through the nation’s Roosevelt-related park sites. At Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site this is achieved through speech contests for students, fundraiser events to promote awareness, and other educational activities.</li> <li>The Theodore Roosevelt Association continues to provide funding for certain projects. Additionally, the association maintains an office at the historic site and occasionally uses the facility for special events such as the annual Theodore Roosevelt Public Speaking Contest for high school students.</li> <li>The townhouses were originally constructed as a learning center focusing on subjects important to Theodore Roosevelt such as conservation. Educational concepts are similar today.</li> <li>In the past, the townhouses have been used for ceremonies and/or celebrations (e.g., New York Police Department promotion ceremonies).</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The historic site’s primary visitor base is aging and visitation is slowly declining.</li> <li>Tapping into new partnerships may be difficult because of the shrinking support base.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Threats and Opportunities</b>  | <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with the Museum of Natural History (founded by Roosevelt’s father) to draw in new audiences.</li> <li>Work toward building an interest in Theodore Roosevelt among youth groups by increasing school programs and other outreach methods.</li> <li>Open the auditorium for special events as it has been used in the past (speaking events or other events related to the historic site’s purpose and significance). Evaluate the historic leasing program for long-term use of the space.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitor use study.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Planning Needs</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Park partner action strategy.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b> | <p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Director’s Order 75A: <i>Civic Engagement and Public Involvement</i></li> <li>Director’s Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i></li> <li>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 7) “Interpretation and Education”</li> <li>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) “Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries”</li> <li>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.10) “Partnerships”</li> </ul>  |

## Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Maintenance of the Collection.** The Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site contains a large number of furnishings and artifacts that are always on display. These items require regular maintenance and cleaning, which is currently done on an ad hoc basis. A structured maintenance plan is needed to facilitate this process and ensure the furnishings and artifacts are maintained to NPS collection standards.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Housekeeping plan for museum collections, collection management plan (update), scope of collections statement (update)
- **Operational Efficiency and Management of Multiple Park Units.** Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site is one of nine NPS units within the Manhattan Sites Administration. All nine sites are in a single management group, sharing staff and various administrative resources. The historic buildings and landscapes that comprise these nine parks are woven into the urban fabric of New York City extending over numerous city blocks. Roughly 21 miles from the southernmost park to the northernmost park is about a 1.5-hour commute one way. The large number of sites, their geographic distribution, and their various visitation levels create logistical challenges for meeting stewardship and maintenance objectives as well as providing appropriate staffing levels and visitor access. A comprehensive understanding of each site's maintenance, visitation, and staffing needs would guide management in balancing the operational needs at each park.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Business plan, park partner action strategy, visitor use study, information technology assessment and plan

## Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

| Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed |  |                    |   |
|--|--|--------------------|---|
| Related to an FRV or Key Issue?                            | Planning Needs                             | Priority (H, M, L) | Notes   |
| Key Issue  | Business plan                              | H                  | A comprehensive business plan is needed for the nine Manhattan national parks. The plan would provide a vision, goals, and clear parkwide operational priorities to address major organizational and administrative challenges. It would also provide information regarding day-to-day operations, tasks, and activities involved in running each park unit while focusing on balancing staffing capacity issues and management strategies for the operations of all nine park units. |
| FRV  | Cyclical maintenance plan                  | H                  | A regular maintenance plan would provide a schedule for preventive maintenance of the structures.   |
| FRV, Key Issue   | Housekeeping plan for museum collections   | H                  | This plan would provide regular maintenance guidelines for the historic site's collections.   |
| Key Issue  | Information technology assessment and plan | H                  | An information technology plan is needed for all of the Manhattan parks to provide strategic guidance for developing and updating aging IT infrastructure. This plan would address the technology challenges and network security needs associated with managing multiple locations and the distribution of park staff in numerous buildings throughout New York City. It would guide updating computer system networks while proactively identifying future technology needs.        |
| FRV  | Integrated pest management plan            | H                  | This plan would evaluate current pest problems at the site and evaluate long-term solutions for remedying the problems.   |
| FRV, Key Issue   | Scope of collections statement (update)    | H                  | Statement identifies what the collection includes, what to add, what not to add, and what may need to be removed from the collection.   |
| FRV, Key Issue   | Collection management plan (update)        | M                  | This plan would identify preferred strategies for the care of collections with concern for their long-term physical well-being and safety.  |
| FRV  | Emergency operations plan                  | M                  |   |

| Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed |                                    |                    |  |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Related to an FRV or Key Issue?                            | Planning Needs                     | Priority (H, M, L) | Notes  |
| FRV  | Historic structure report (update) | M                  | Gather updated information related to the history and condition of the townhouses to ensure preservation of character-defining features and materials. It would inform future management decisions such as maintenance and adaptive reuse.   |
| FRV, Key Issue   | Park partner action strategy       | M                  | The park partner action strategy is an approach to aligning park and partner goals, resulting in a tangible action strategy that defines the future direction of the partnership. The strategy may be used with a variety of partners across all of the Manhattan national parks to clarify park and partner roles and identify mutually beneficial strategies, actions, and tools for implementation. |

| Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made |   |                    |  |
|---|---|--------------------|--|
| Related to an FRV or Key Issue?                                       | Data and GIS Needs                              | Priority (H, M, L) | Notes  |
| FRV   | Interior Collections Management System (update) | H                  | The historic site's collections and archives need to be updated in the Department of the Interior Collections Management System.   |
| FRV, Key Issue  | Visitor use study                               | M                  | This study would include all of the Manhattan national parks that fall under one administrative unit (the Manhattan Sites). It would be used to inform management of visitor use patterns and assess the potential impacts of programs and activities. |



## Part 3: Contributors

### Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site

Barbara Applebaum, Chief of Interpretation  
Laura Brennan, Park Ranger  
Michael Callahan, Park Ranger  
Jimmy Cleckley, District Park Ranger  
Michael H. Frazier, Historian  
Steve Laise, Chief of Cultural Resources (retired)  
Allison Lunchnick, Park Ranger  
Shirley McKinney, Superintendent  
Vladimir Merzlyakov, Park Ranger  
Daniel Prebutt, Park Ranger  
Don Stanko, Park Ranger  
Liam Strain, District Ranger

### NPS Northeast Region

Christine Arato, Regional Historian (former)  
Amanda Jones, Community Planner, Project Lead  
Eric Kreuzsch, Cultural Anthropologist/Archeologist (former)  
Jim O'Connell, Community Planner (retired)  
Stephen Spaulding, Director, Historic Architecture, Conservation, and Engineering Center  
Sara Wolf, Director, Northeast Museum Services Center (former)

### Other NPS Staff

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Nancy Shock, Foundation Coordinator, Denver Service Center, Planning Division  
Philip Viray, Publications Chief, Denver Service Center, Planning Division  
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### Partners

Renee Barnes, Program Director, National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy

# Appendixes

## Appendix A: Enabling Legislation for Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site

76 STAT. ] PUBLIC LAW 87-547—JULY 25, 1962

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Public Law 87-547

AN ACT

To authorize establishment of the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace and Sagamore Hill National Historic Sites, New York, and for other purposes.

July 25, 1962  
[H. R. 8484]

*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 Theodore Roosevelt, the Secretary of the Interior may acquire, by donation from the Theodore Roosevelt Association, the sites and structures known as the Theodore Roosevelt House situated at Twenty-eight and Twenty-six East Twentieth Street, New York City, consisting of approximately eleven one-hundredths of an acre, and Sagamore Hill, consisting of not to exceed ninety acres at Cove Neck, Oyster Bay, Long Island, and the improvements thereon, together with the furnishings and other contents of the structures.

Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace and Sagamore Hill National Historic Sites, N. Y. Establishment authorization.

SEC. 2. (a) In accordance with the Act entitled "An Act to create a National Park Trust Fund Board, and for other purposes", approved July 10, 1935 (49 Stat. 477), as amended, the National Park Trust Fund Board may accept from the Theodore Roosevelt Association \$500,000 and such additional amounts as the association may tender from time to time from the endowment fund under its control, which funds, when accepted, shall be utilized only for the purposes of the historic sites established pursuant to this Act.

Acceptance of funds.  
16 USC 19-19c.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall limit the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under other provisions of law to accept in the name of the United States donations of property.

SEC. 3. When lands, interests in lands, improvements, and other properties comprising the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace and Sagamore Hill, as authorized for acquisition by section 1 of this Act, and a portion of the endowment fund in the amount of \$500,000 have been transferred to the United States, the Secretary of the Interior shall establish the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace and Sagamore Hill National Historic Sites by publication of notice thereof in the Federal Register.

Transfer of property, etc.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the Interior shall administer, protect, and develop the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace and Sagamore Hill National Historic Sites in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 and the following), as amended and supplemented.

Publication in F. R. Development, etc.

SEC. 5. The Theodore Roosevelt Association, having by its patriotic and active interest preserved for posterity these important historic sites, buildings, and objects, shall, upon establishment of the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace and Sagamore Hill National Historic Sites be consulted by the Secretary of the Interior in the establishment of an advisory committee or committees for matters relating to the preservation, development, and management of the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace and Sagamore Hill National Historic Sites.

Advisory committees. Establishment.

SEC. 6. The Act entitled "An Act to incorporate the Roosevelt Memorial Association", approved May 31, 1920 (41 Stat. 691), as amended by the Act approved on May 21, 1953 (67 Stat. 27), which changed the name of such corporation to the Theodore Roosevelt Association, and by the Act approved on March 29, 1956 (70 Stat. 60), which permitted such corporation to consolidate with Women's Theodore Roosevelt Association, Incorporated, is hereby further amended by adding to section 3 thereof a new subdivision as follows:

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PUBLIC LAW 87-548—JULY 25, 1962 [76 STAT.

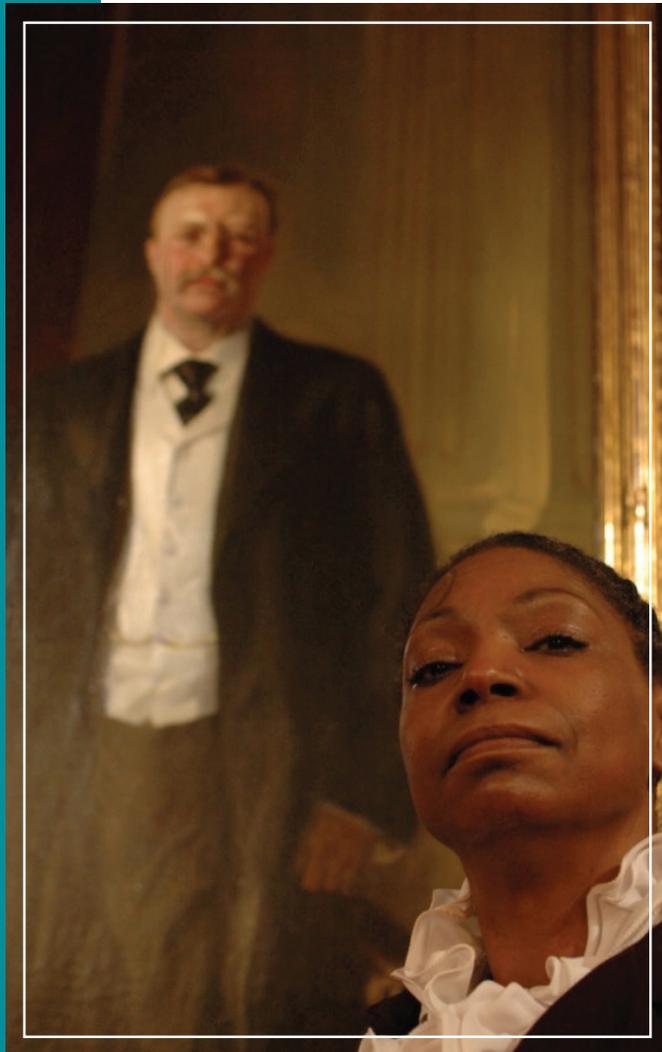
Donation of  
property.

“(4) The donation of real and personal property, including part or all of its endowment fund, to a public agency or public agencies for the purpose of preserving in public ownership historically significant properties associated with the life of Theodore Roosevelt.”  
and by deleting the word “and” at the end of subdivision (2) of section 3.

Approved July 25, 1962.

## Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

| Name  | Agreement Type                    | Start – Expiration Date                            | Stakeholders                                  | Purpose  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Eastern National  | Cooperative association agreement | 10/2014 – 10/2020                                  | Eastern National                              | Cooperative association agreement to allow sales of items  |
| National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy Friends Agreement | Friends agreement                 | 2/22/2012 – 2/22/2018 (One year extension in 2017) | National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy | Replaced general agreement to promote Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace and the other national parks in the New York City area |
| Friends Agreement with Theodore Roosevelt Association           | Friends agreement                 | Expired/ drafting new agreement                    | Theodore Roosevelt Association                | Promote Theodore Roosevelt's values and encourage democracy  |







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# Northeast Region Foundation Document Recommendation Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site

July 2018

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This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Northeast Regional Director.



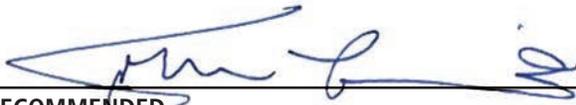
July 19, 2018

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RECOMMENDED

Shirley McKinney, Superintendent, Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site

Date



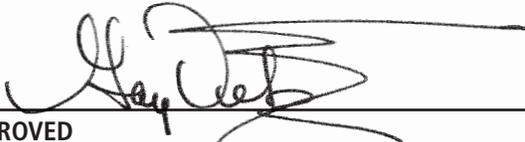
8.8.18

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RECOMMENDED

Joshua Laird, Commissioner, National Parks of New York Harbor

Date



August 13, 2018

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APPROVED

Gay Vietzke, Regional Director, Northeast Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

THRB 420/147650

August 2018

Foundation Document • Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site

