



Name of Property: Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

City, State: Hyde Park, New York

Significant Dates: November 19, 1939-Cornerstone Ceremony
June 30, 1941-Dedication Ceremony

NHL Criteria & Exceptions: **NHL Criterion 2.** Properties associated with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the U.S. There are no exceptions. There are no exceptions.

Theme: IV. Shaping the Political Landscape
4. Political Ideas, Culture, and Theories
2. Governmental Institutions

Previous Recognition: National Register of Historic Places, [year listed]

National Historic Context: VII. Political and Military Affairs
H. The Great Depression and the New Deal

VIII. World War II
C. Politics and Diplomacy during the War

NHL Significance:

Franklin D. Roosevelt, one of the country's most influential presidents, was directly and intimately involved in the planning, design, and construction of his library in Hyde Park during a critical time in his presidency. It is, in many ways, emblematic of FDR himself, embodying aspects of his character and political career, along with his personal interests in the Hudson Valley, building construction, and collecting.

The opening of the library in 1941 marked the beginning of the presidential library system, and its creation spawned a new and enduring approach to preserving presidential papers. The library's collections were groundbreaking both in scope and mass: its establishment marks the first time that a federally controlled repository in the U.S. was devoted to preserving a specific era in the country's history so comprehensively, thereby creating an exceptional research and educational center for public use. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum is a nationally significant landmark of mid-twentieth-century America.

Integrity:

- This property retains a very high degree of integrity relative to the design and construction as guided by FDR.
- Recent rehabilitation work carried out between 2009-12 conformed to SOI Standards for the Treatment of Historic Structures.

Owner of Property: Public-Federal: U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Size of Property: 16.31 Acres

Origins of Nomination: This nomination was initiated by Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: Assumed strong support generally. Most people expect that this would have been done already.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments: Dr. Stevens raised questions about the nomination's assertion that the property's significance stemmed from a claim that it better represented FDR's life than any other property without identifying and comparing it to those other properties; about concerns over the accuracy and historical quality of the research in the nomination; and about insufficient comparison to other presidential libraries. He also disputed claims in the nomination about FDR supposedly basing the concept of his library on the Rutherford B. Hayes Memorial Library in Fremont, Ohio.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Not to Designate. Five yeas and five nays; motion fails.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 5/4/16):

Aileen Rohr, Town of Hyde Park Supervisor, New York

Mary Kay Vrba, President & CEO, Dutchess Tourism, Inc., Poughkeepsie, New York

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senator, Washington, DC