

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

Other Name/Site Number: Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 4079 Albany Post Road

Not for publication: N/A

City/Town: Hyde Park

Vicinity: N/A

State: NY

County: Dutchess

Code: 027

Zip Code: 12538

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: ___

Public-Local: ___

Public-State: ___

Public-Federal: X

Category of Property

Building(s): X

District: ___

Site: ___

Structure: ___

Object: ___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

2

2

Noncontributing

1 buildings

___ sites

___ structures

___ objects

___ Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: Home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt National Historic Site

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ____ Entered in the National Register
 ____ Determined eligible for the National Register
 ____ Determined not eligible for the National Register
 ____ Removed from the National Register
 ____ Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

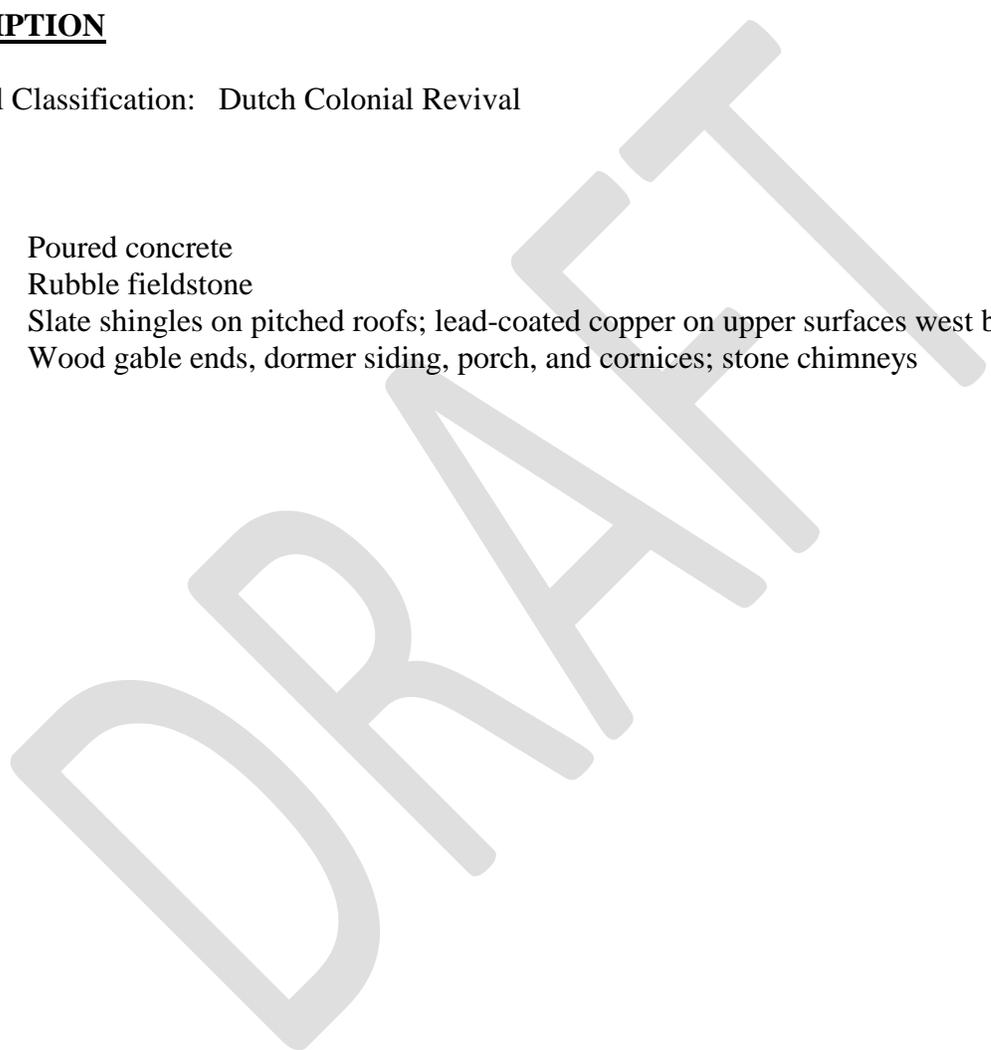
Historic:	Education	Sub:	Library
	Recreation and Culture		Museum
Current:	Education	Sub:	Library
	Recreation and Culture		Museum

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Dutch Colonial Revival

Materials:

Foundation: Poured concrete
Walls: Rubble fieldstone
Roof: Slate shingles on pitched roofs; lead-coated copper on upper surfaces west block
Other: Wood gable ends, dormer siding, porch, and cornices; stone chimneys



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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library and Museum is located in Hyde Park, New York, at the edge of a field and to northeast of Springwood, the Roosevelt home. The library faces east, toward the Albany Post Road (Route 9). The design of the library was inspired by President Roosevelt's interest in Dutch colonial buildings of the Hudson Valley and relies on simple forms, scale, steeply-pitched roofs, and the texture of the rubble fieldstone walls for architectural interest.¹ Roosevelt made sketch plans of the library in 1937 (fig 14). That same year he enlisted architect Henry J. Toombs to help with the design, and in early 1938 architect Louis A. Simon took over, with the president conferring regularly on the project.

The library is composed of long, low, rectangular stone masses, one story high with basement and attic. The original building, constructed in 1939-41, is U-shaped in plan, with north and south wings projecting east from a west block to form an entrance courtyard. The west block is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 120 feet long (north to south) by 66 feet 6 inches wide. The north wing is approximately 44 feet 8 inches wide (north to south) by 86 feet long; the south wing is approximately 41 feet wide (north to south) by 86 feet long.

The walls of the library are random fieldstone rubble laid up in cement mortar, generally with wide, irregular joints. The lower slopes of the steeply pitched gambrel roof over the west block are covered with slate shingles, while the upper surfaces are covered with flat-seamed sheet metal. The wings have gable roofs; on the east facades there are louvered ventilation panels and wood clapboards at the peak of the gables. The dormer windows have shed roofs covered with slate and diagonal siding that follows the pitch of the roofs.

A wood porch extends along the walls of the courtyard; the porch is six bays wide on the north and south sides and seven bays wide on the west side. The bays are delineated by 7-foot-high square wood columns (encasing steel supports) that extend up to a plain wood soffit. Over the porch is a slate-covered shed roof, which continues the roof planes of the building. Clapboards cover the east gable ends of the porch roof. The porch is paved with flagstones set in cement mortar. Evidence of an original removable storm vestibule at the main entrance survives on the porch; it was a wood-and-glass structure with doors on the north and south sides. Currently the west side of the porch has floor-to ceiling glazing with glass entrance doors allowing access at both the north and south porches.

The main entrance to the building, located under the porch at the center of the east facade of the west block, is flanked on each side by three windows. There are no openings in the courtyard facade of the north wing, reflecting the fact that this wing houses the library stacks. A doorway in the courtyard facade of the south wing is flanked by two windows to the west and three windows to the east.

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The west (rear) elevation of the west block, which is eleven bays wide, retains its original symmetrical arrangement. An entrance is located in the center bay, and there are windows in each of the other ten bays. The original stone stoop has two risers and an original iron foot scraper. To the south of the doorway a deep window well with stone retaining walls provides light to three basement windows, which are fitted with louvered panels. An original iron grille covers the well. At the north end of the west elevation a stone curb with a stone coping encloses an areaway with concrete steps leading to a basement doorway. Over the center bay is a wide dormer with three louvered ventilation panels. The north and south facades of the west block have double inside-end chimneys joined with a parapet wall and capped with stone copings.

The east elevation of the south wing is symmetrical, with a central doorway having an original stone stoop and iron foot scraper; there is one window to each side of the doorway. There are basement windows in the north and south bays; the window wells have stone retaining walls and original iron grates. The south elevation of the south wing was originally seven bays wide. The 1972 addition covered the two west bays and the west dormer. The five remaining bays retain their original basement and first-story window openings.

The north wing has fewer windows than the south wing. The north facade of the north wing has just two first-story windows and three dormers, and the east facade originally had only two basement windows, set behind window wells with stone retaining walls and iron grates. The cornerstone, located at the north end of the east elevation, is inscribed: "Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of the United States, 1939." The 1972 addition covered the two first-story windows and the west dormer, as well as the two westernmost basement windows. The south facade has no openings; the only architectural element on this long expanse of fieldstone facing the courtyard is a wood sign identifying the facility.

The two Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Wings were added in 1972. They project north and south, respectively, from west block of the original library. The north addition is approximately 98 feet 8 inches long (north to south) by 40 feet 10 inches wide; the south addition is approximately 95 feet long (north to south) by 38 feet 8 inches wide. The massing and building materials were selected to match those of the original library, with fieldstone walls, wood trim, double-hung wood windows, slate roofing, and shed-roofed dormers. The outside entrance to the north addition is on the west facade and is protected by a small porch. The south addition has two entrances: the one on the west facade has a covered porch, and the other is small entranceway on the east facade. The granite cornerstone for the additions is located on the south facade of the south addition; the stone is inscribed "Eleanor Roosevelt Addition, Presented to the United States of America by the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation, 1972."

Renovation work, both minor and extensive, was carried out on the exterior of the building throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Some of the window sash and frames were replaced or modified, and the shutters were removed. A doorway was inserted in the east facade of the north wing, and new steel doors added at other entrances. A stone vestibule was

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constructed to create a new exit from the president's study. The chimneys were rebuilt above the roofline. During the recent renovation work, c. 2009-12, two existing windows on the basement level, one on the north and another on the south façade, were converted to wood doors for use as emergency exit doors. A doorway was inserted in the basement level of the east façade of the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial south wing with a small porch also added.

Inside, the basement extends under all sections of the building. This level originally housed a combination auditorium and exhibition space, a gallery, photographic and photostat facilities, a receiving and sorting room, mechanical equipment, staff lunch room, workshops, rest rooms, and storage; many of the original room configurations and uses survive, but some of the spaces are now used for collections storage, offices, and additional mechanical equipment.

On the main floor the west block of the original building contained a large central exhibit area; the president's study and secretary's office were in the adjacent area to the south, and a public search room and receiving vestibule were to the north. There were three levels of steel stacks in the north wing, on the first floor, mezzanine, and attic. The main floor of the south wing housed a large gallery for the naval exhibits, a smaller gallery for Dutchess County history, and offices for the director and other staff opening off of a long east-west corridor. The west portion of the attic held a cooling tower and study room, and the rest of the attic was intended to be used for additional stacks. The original building typically had wood or asphalt-tile floors, plaster walls and ceilings, steel stairways, and steel or wood doors. The 1972 north addition contained a large space for the research library, a librarian's office, and lobby on the first floor and document storage in the attic. The 1972 south addition contained a single space for museum exhibits; the attic level included a large storeroom for the museum and smaller workshops, offices, and storage areas arranged along a central corridor. The 1972 additions typically had concrete or slate floors, plaster walls, and plaster or acoustical-tile ceilings. Much of the original architectural character of the spaces on the main floor of the building survives, although the use of the spaces and some surface finishes has been modified. New exhibition constructions have been inserted to display artifacts and create new rooms. In the north addition the reading room for the research library was moved to the attic, and the first floor space was converted to a conference center.

A one-story gatehouse is located near the entrance to the property from Route 9. It has a T-shaped plan and measures 32 feet 6 inches by 28 feet 6 inches overall. The construction of the gatehouse is similar to that of the library, with stone walls, simple wood trim, and a slate-covered, gable roof. There are three entrances to the gatehouse, on the north, south and west facades, and a stone chimney. A wood porch, three bays wide, extends along the north facade and has a shed roof. The cornerstone, at the west end of the north elevation, is inscribed with the initials of the president and the contractor, John McShain, and the construction date: "J. Mc.S., 1941, F.D.R." The original doors have been replaced, and the shutters have been removed. The building originally had a hall, toilet rooms (later remodeled into a recording studio and sound room), and a utility room.

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A sheep fence, designed by FDR, borders part of the property; the cornerstone is dated 1939. A three-foot-high fieldstone wall separates the property from Albany Post Road. This wall, which was laid up dry, is 743 feet long.

Integrity Evaluation:

The FDR Library and its grounds retain a very high degree of integrity. The site remains unencumbered by any subsequent construction. The lawn that stretches between the Albany Post Road and the main building remains as FDR intended, a meadow with a few old growth oaks, an allee of trees along the north side, the dry stone wall along the main road, and the metal sheep fence along the southern boundary. The stone envelopes and exterior features of the two contributing buildings (library and gate house) are unchanged. The library building, which reached its intended completed form in 1972 with the additions of the "Eleanor Roosevelt" wings to the north and south underwent minor interior alterations up to 2009 when the NARA undertook major renovation work on the library. A 2002 detailed Historic Structures Report prepared by the firm of John G. Waite Associates, Architects PLLC identified all changes that had occurred to the building up to that date. This analysis allowed the rehabilitation team to identify the period of the features they sought to remove or alter. These proposals were thoroughly vetted through the NHPA Sec. 106 process and revised to achieve the maximum degree of preservation. Figures 18, 19, and 20 show the features that were agreed upon for removal and are color coded to indicate which are original to the 1939 period and which were features added after 1971. Intervention was minimal. Most work was undertaken to modernize mechanical systems and accessibility or to bring exhibition space, records and artifact storage, management operations, and research rooms up to present day standards. Key historic spaces were restored and conserved. These include the Presidents Study and the President's personal book collection area. The building's interiors and uses in 2016 are those proposed in 2009 and carried out over the next three years during the renovation work; these are illustrated in figures 21, 22, and 23. The most important aspect of the property's integrity is that it continues to serve the purposes for which it was intended by F.D.R., namely as a research library that contains the President's and First Lady's papers and a museum that interprets the President's administration.

1. This description is based on information in the historic structure report of the library and museum prepared by John G. Waite Associates, Architects, for the General Services Administration, 2002.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
 Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National
 Register Criteria:

A B X C D

Criteria Considerations
 (Exceptions):

A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria:

2. Properties that are associated with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the U.S.

NHL Theme(s):

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

Areas of Significance: Politics and Government

Period(s) of Significance: 1939-1945

Significant Dates: November 19, 1939 (cornerstone laying); June 30, 1941 (dedication ceremony)

Significant Person(s): Roosevelt, Franklin D.

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Franklin D. Roosevelt (concept design);
 Toombs, Harry J. (architect);
 Simon, Louis A. (architect)
 McShain, John (contractor)

Historic Contexts:

VII. Political and Military Affairs
 H. The Great Depression and the New Deal

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

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, one of the country's most influential and venerated presidents, was directly and intimately involved in the planning, design, and construction of the presidential library in Hyde Park, New York, during a critical time in his presidency. Known as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum, the library 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.¹ The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum is a nationally significant landmark of mid-twentieth-century America.

Designing and Building the Library during Roosevelt's Presidency

It is not entirely clear when Roosevelt first conceived the idea of the library, but his drawings, personal notes, and correspondence indicate that the concept for the project originated with him. The first known sketches of the library, executed in Roosevelt's own hand on paper torn from a yellow legal pad, are dated April 12, 1937 (fig.14). His rough site plan shows the library very close to its present location on the 16-acre parcel of land on the Springwood estate that the president and his mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, donated for the library. FDR annotated his floor plan for the library to indicate the function of several rooms, including spaces designated for his presidential papers and for Hudson Valley and Dutchess County collections. FDR also sketched a front elevation at this time, depicting a one-and-a-half story building evocative of the Dutch colonial architectural traditions of the Hudson Valley, with fieldstone walls and a steeply pitched roof.² The finished building closely adhered to these original drawings.³

In September 1937, with his plans in mind and preliminary sketches drawn, FDR enlisted architect Henry J. Toombs to help with the technical aspects of the building. Toombs recalled the president's thinking about the library in its earliest stages:

I do clearly recall his excitement on the occasion of outlining this projected Library. His mind was very busy with the divisions of materials to be included. His model ship collection [could?] be put together. The bldg must be air condition[ed] to preserve the papers. The spaces for shelving must be figured from amounts of material in storage—We must look carefully to practical requirements, a receiving room—a vault. The [Patrons'?] facilities were important. (My notes indicate Librarians room to be small—typically FDR for he always liked small rooms—They were cosy.) He was interested in that for this was his second term in office and he obviously looked forward with pleasant anticipation to the interesting job, to him, of arranging & cataloging his collection.⁴

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Roosevelt was personally involved in each stage of the creation of the library, and he found time to devote attention to the project during very difficult times in his presidency. The late 1930s and first few years of the 1940s, when the library was being designed and built, saw crises both at home and abroad. As the country continued to languish in the ongoing economic depression, FDR initiated legislation and programs to ease the distress of the Depression and then had to defend their constitutionality. Events abroad proved increasingly grave and menacing. The planning and construction of the library were carried out while the Axis powers wreaked havoc in Asia and Europe. Adolf Hitler invaded Russia only eight days after the library's dedication on June 30, 1941. Less than six months later, after Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor, the U.S. was officially drawn into World War II. While Roosevelt strategized and managed the war, he also oversaw the library project. Indeed, work on the library provided Roosevelt respite from the turbulent domestic and global events that defined the years he was in office.

Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury, whose department had assumed responsibility for the project in early 1939, recalled that during this period there were "many consultations with the President, who, pen in hand, enthusiastically offered his solutions of problems of design, equipment, and landscaping" and "contributed many practical details and devices."⁵ Even after the final architectural drawings were approved in mid-May 1939, Roosevelt continued to work them over, making suggestions and changes.⁶ Simon explained how strongly and decisively FDR reacted to one design proposal for the north block of the building:

I recall that as we presented sketch after sketch, that some of them were discarded and others modified. Finally when we arrived at the summing up for the plan and the exterior expression of the building, it seemed to me that a portion of the wall forming the front of the stack-pavilion had a very large expanse of stone surface without any break in it. I thought it might be interesting to relieve this slightly by having a flush arch placed there, such as one sees occasionally in old stone buildings. They might have been placed there as a relieving arch for the weight above, but more probably when an old opening had been closed up the arch was allowed to remain as originally installed. However, the President's idea of truth in architectural design wouldn't permit any such device merely for decorative effect, and he said, "No, we can't have that," so that came out.⁷

Roosevelt visited Hyde Park several times later that year to select and approve materials and to inspect progress of the work. The stone work was especially important to him. He had given the contractor, John McShain, a tour of Hyde Park to show him examples of the type of stone he wanted for the library. In September FDR inspected the two sample stone walls that the contractor erected on site.⁸ McShain recalled that in October 1939, as events in Europe escalated, Roosevelt was disappointed that he had not been able to visit the construction site more often, since "nothing would please him more than to spend every day on the building site and see the stone masons dress the stone and lay them in the wall."⁹ The president himself said that the library project was a "matter which lies very close to my heart."¹⁰

Roosevelt was instrumental in planning the library's interior, including the designs of the stack space, the exhibit rooms, and the research room.¹¹ He was deeply involved in refining the design of his own study, devoting attention to such

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details as adjusting the height of the door and adding a wood panel above it, designing the ceiling lighting fixture, and altering one of the base cabinets to accommodate a safe.¹² Louis Simon recalled the president's close attention to the placement of the blue-and-white Dutch tiles for the fireplace opening:

I had a full size drawing prepared showing the facing of the fireplace, with blank squares (numbered) on the drawing, and I went to the White House to ask him to look at the tiles themselves ... The full size drawing was laid on the floor and he spent a long time shifting and rearranging those tiles in the blank spaces on the full size drawing. Finally he got them in the sequence he thought he would like best, and instructions were issued to have them set accordingly.¹³

The cornerstone-laying ceremony was held on November 19, 1939. In his memoir John McShain remarked on how important it had been to Roosevelt to be able to present the project to the public in the best possible light at the ceremony:

The President informed me that all arrangements had been made for the cornerstone laying, which would take place on Sunday afternoon, November 19. He further advised me that he had invited about 300 guests and that he planned to have moving pictures taken as similar to those which he had at the time of the ground breaking, and of course, as usual, the photographers and newspapermen would be on hand. He was particularly anxious to know the height that we anticipated to reach with the walls by that date, as he expressed his desire to make a very good showing with all of his guests on hand. He further stated that from time to time he had received telephone calls from his close friends inquiring when we were going to start the foundation work on the building. He was particularly anxious to show off before these people and prove to them that it was possible to substantially complete the building before the winter. He also inquired if by any chance could we possibly have some second floor steel erected by that date, in order that an excellent showing may be made in the photographs that are taken of the building, as he reminded me that the photographs would go from coast to coast, and if we wanted to be particularly proud of the progress of the work.¹⁴

In front of an audience of approximately 500 guests Roosevelt reminisced about his intimate connection with the land on which the complex was erected and elaborated on his dream for the library:

Half a century ago a small boy took especial delight in climbing an old tree, now unhappily gone, to pick and eat ripe Seckel pears. That was one hundred feet to the west of where we stand. Just to the north he used to lie flat between the strawberry rows and eat sunwarmed strawberries. In the Spring of the year, in hip rubber boots, he sailed his first toy boats in the surface water formed by the melting snows. In the Summer, with his dogs, he dug into the woodchuck holes of this same field...

It has, therefore, been my personal hope that this library, and the use of it by scholars and visitors, will come to be an integral part of a country scene which the hand of man has not greatly changed since the days of the Indians who dwelt here 300 years ago...

This is a peaceful countryside, and it seems appropriate that in this time of strife we should dedicate the library to the spirit of peace—peace for the United States and soon, we hope, peace for the world.

At the same time we can express the thought that those in the days to come who seek to learn from contemporaneous documents the history of our time will gain a less superficial and more intimate and accurate view of the aspirations and purposes of all kinds of Americans who have been living in these times.¹⁵

After his speech the president used a ceremonial gold trowel to spread the mortar under the cornerstone.¹⁶

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Roosevelt toured the library in December 1939 and again in February, April, and May 1940. After he toured the inside of the building in February 1940, it was reported that he was “well pleased with the work” and that he “personally wished to make the selection of the colors for the entire building.”¹⁷

FDR also designed a fence to enclose the library on one side, telling Louis Simon that he did not want “any ordinary fence there, he wanted a sheep fence.” When Simon failed to find a prototype, Roosevelt sketched the fence, jotting down figures that showed “exactly how high he wanted it and just how many bars, and everything.”¹⁸

The gatehouse on the library property was a gift from John McShain to the president. A week after the library’s dedication on June 30, 1941, McShain wrote to FDR that after viewing the library he was “convinced that there was still something lacking in order to make a perfect layout.” McShain continued:

I am enclosing herewith a few sketches showing a small guard house which I would like the privilege of building for you at this time. Of course, I am aware that you have already given the new library to the Govt. and in view of this action I would be delighted to erect this new structure for the large sum of one (\$1.00) dollar.¹⁹

Roosevelt enthusiastically accepted McShain’s offer, writing that the plans were “delightful,” the location of the gatehouse “just right,” and the “presence of this perfect little building near the gate will be the making of the approach.”²⁰

The pump house, located to the west of the library, was part of the original construction as well.²¹

An Emblem of the President

Roosevelt was deeply interested in the history and building traditions of the Hudson Valley, and he cultivated these enthusiasms in tandem with his political career. He was particularly captivated by the colonial history and vernacular architecture of Dutchess County, his birthplace and the site of Springwood, his family’s estate, which was his life-long home. Roosevelt was a creative force behind several building projects in and around Hyde Park. Beginning in the mid-1920s he worked with Henry Toombs on the designs for Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt’s retreat, and for the James Roosevelt Memorial Library. Later, in 1938, FDR collaborated with Toombs again on the design for Top Cottage, the president’s own retreat. During his second term, with New Deal programs in full swing, Roosevelt also exerted his influence on the designs of the U.S. post offices in Poughkeepsie, Ellenville, Rhinebeck, Wappingers Falls, and Hyde Park and had a hand in the designs of three schools in that area as well.²² Toombs later recalled that the president “loved to build. Any project, new or in progress, excited his interest.”²³ “Each building, as it was undertaken,” Toombs reflected, “was a matter for his particular interest and decision. He concerned himself with the plans in detail; was quick in understanding, and fertile in suggestion. His taste was for the simple. He liked the word ‘homey.’ He was loath to accept anything which in appearance suggested sophistication, richness in detail, or elaborateness.”²⁴

Roosevelt’s interest in history infused his passion for collecting. He was apparently influenced by advice from an

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antiquarian book dealer received during his Harvard days—"The first principle of collecting is to destroy nothing."²⁵ From the time he was a young man Roosevelt avidly collected books, stamps, and naval memorabilia, and he was assiduous at handling his private collections and managing the voluminous papers related to his political career. The naval history exhibit at the library, for example, represented his "lifelong interest in nautical matters and American naval history," while the Dutchess County room displayed local historical materials, including the collections of carriages, sleighs, and iceboats belonging to the Roosevelt family. Also open to the public was the main exhibition room, which constituted "a significant record" of Roosevelt's "interests and achievements."²⁶ The president devoted his attention to the details in setting up the library and museum; he designed the document boxes for the library stacks and oversaw the installation of the exhibits of his naval art and model-ship collections.²⁷

In the four years between the opening of the library in 1941 and his death in April 1945, Roosevelt made frequent trips to the library, diligently sorting and classifying his papers and collections. He worked in his study in the library—from which he delivered several of his famous wartime "fireside chats"—alone or with the assistance of his cousin and companion, Margaret Suckley. Spending time at the library had a calming affect on the president, as Suckley mentioned in her diary in July 1944: Roosevelt, she wrote "got into the big blue velvet chair, with a cushion behind him & his feet on the new stool. Until 5:30 he stayed there, relaxed & really resting, though we quietly went through 5 large envelopes of letters."²⁸

Two days after Roosevelt's death Suckley reflected on the indelible mark that Roosevelt left on the library:

What *we* must try to do is make it the kind of place the President wanted it to be—His spirit is here, & when I get a sort of helpless, 'what's-the-use-in-doing-anything' feeling, I can feel his thought that no matter *what* happens, one must never give up—that was *his* motto, & the reason of his greatness. 'The President's room,' I hope, will remain as it is, always—for he fixed it this way, placed the furniture, had the pictures hung, etc.²⁹

The Progenitor of the Presidential Library System

In formulating his avant-garde vision of the library, Roosevelt sought support and counsel from professional historians, archivists, and leading scholars. Correspondence dating from 1938 clearly illustrates the genesis of what Roosevelt called "creating a repository for manuscripts, correspondence, books, reports, etc., etc., relating to this period of our national history."³⁰

Traditionally, presidents had taken their papers with them when leaving office and then managed them at will and often not very successfully. Many collections were lost or physically destroyed, either by accident or intentionally. Others were divided up haphazardly among family members and institutions or given away as souvenirs.³¹ In contrast, Roosevelt saw the library at Hyde Park as a "center devoted to the history of this period" rather than being a special collection located at the Library of Congress, a university, or a historical society, where, he wrote, "such a collection would be a tail on the dog." His idea was "to have the whole thing in a place by itself."³²

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Historian and Harvard professor Samuel Eliot Morison confirmed Roosevelt's approach:

The usual thing in the past is for every President to take away all his papers from the White House. His widow, children, executors &/or secretary go through them, abstracting everything they regard as "personal" and destroying what seems "unedifying." Thus emasculated, they are handed over to the MSS. Division of the Library of Congress, whose staff weeds out a mass of routine, begging, and crank letters, and mounts the rest. This is a very poor system, which I hope you will not follow...But whatever you do Mr. President, don't break up the collection, giving some to your children, others to Harvard, etc.! Although alma mater would profit, such dispersion offends all my professional principles and professional prejudices!³³

Roosevelt also consulted William Yandell Elliott, professor of government at Harvard University, who believed that in time the library would become a "place of historic interest comparable to Monticello or the Hermitage, and at the same time would serve a continuing function of the highest importance to historical scholarship and research."³⁴ Elliott's prediction proved correct. In the 65 years since the library was opened, millions of visitors and researchers have made use of the facility.³⁵

In a press release issued on December 1938 Roosevelt explained his motivation for creating a single repository for his material to a wider audience:

Since 1910 — or in other words for a period of twenty-eight years — I have carefully preserved all of my correspondence, public papers, pamphlets, books, etc. This includes all incoming material and copies of practically all outgoing material. These years cover my service of nearly three years in the New York State Senate; seven and one-half years as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, including the World War period and two trips to Europe; my business and legal correspondence; much political material between 1920 and 1928, including my campaign for the Vice Presidency, the 1924 Convention, and the 1928 Convention; my campaign for Governor in 1928 and 1930; all of my personal papers as Governor of New York, 1929-1933; the campaigns for the Presidency, 1932 and 1936; and all of my Presidential papers from March 4, 1933 to date.

Because these papers relate to so many periods and activities which are not connected with my service in the Federal Government, I do not wish to break them up, leaving a portion of them to the National Archives and dividing the rest between the State of New York Archives, the New York State Historical Society, the Dutchess County Historical Society, the Harvard College Library, etc., etc.

In other words, it is my desire that they be kept as a whole and intact in their original condition, available to scholars of the future in one definite locality.³⁶

Roosevelt undertook the library project in part for himself but primarily as an act of service to the country. He had hoped to spend his post-presidential years comfortably ensconced in his study at the library, organizing and cataloging his papers and collections.³⁷ He had viewed the project as a contribution to research, scholarship, and the preservation of U.S. history.

The library, however, not only embodied that goal, but also became a model for other presidents. In 1950 Harry S. Truman, following Roosevelt's example, decided that he, too, would build a library to house his presidential papers. Truman's plans to erect a presidential library helped galvanize congressional support, and in 1955 Congress passed the Presidential Libraries Act, which established a system of privately erected and federally maintained facilities. This law

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encouraged each successive president to donate his materials to the federal government, thereby ensuring their preservation and their availability to the American people. Roosevelt's predecessor, Herbert Hoover, chose to do the same, and his library was dedicated in 1962.³⁸

Of all of the buildings associated with Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the library best represents the confluence of important aspects of his life, both public and private. The library's vast collections not only encompass Roosevelt's political career but also showcase his personal passions. As the embodiment of FDR's dedication to preserving history and sharing it with the public, his interest in vernacular architecture, and his ardor for collecting and cataloging, the library provides an unparalleled lens through which to view this remarkable American. The library building and collections enable the public to gain a deeper understanding of Roosevelt and this important era of American history; the carefully assembled papers and objects provide a much more complete and comprehensive picture than scattered, fractured collections of his personal effects and papers could ever convey. The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library and Museum is an essential part of Roosevelt's national and international legacy.

1. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Press Release, Dec. 10, 1938, Box 1, Folder 1937-Dec. 1938, President's Personal Files, Franklin D. Roosevelt Library (herein after cited as FDRL). Cynthia M. Koch and Lynn A. Bassanese, "Roosevelt and His Library, Part 1," *Prologue* 33, 2: www.archives.gov/publications/prologue (accessed Mar. 22, 2004). Roosevelt based his concept for his library on the Rutherford B. Hayes Memorial Library in Fremont, Ohio, though that collection of papers was radically smaller in scale than that which Roosevelt hoped to house in his facility. The Hayes Library is not part of the federal presidential library system and is administered by a local organization.
2. Roosevelt drawing, Apr. 12, 1937, Box 1, Folder 1937-Dec. 1938, President's Personal Files, FDRL. Roosevelt's secretary, Grace G. Tully, wrote on May 4, 1945, just three weeks after the President's death, that "this was the first drawing made by the President of the proposed Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park."
3. Henry J. Toombs, "Doing Architecture with FDR," Henry J. Toombs Papers, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, Ga.
4. *Ibid.*
5. Louis A. Simon to Frank C. Walker, May 1, 1939, Box 44, Folder CC Simon, Papers of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Inc., FDRL. Waldo Gifford Leland, "The Story of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library," March. 17, 1950, Box 4, Folder Papers of Louis A. Simon, Small Collections, FDRL.
6. John G. Waite Associates, Architects, "Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum Historic Structure Report" (Albany, N.Y., 2002), 19.
7. Louis A. Simon, interview with George A. Palmer, Oct. 23, 1951, transcript, p. 4, Box 4, Folder Papers of Louis A. Simon, Small Collections, FDRL.
8. John McShain, "Hyde Park: A Memoir," 3. McShain Papers, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Del.
9. McShain, 27.
10. List of people asked to come to the White House at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, 8 Dec. 1938, Box 1, Folder 1937-Dec. 1938 President's Personal Files, FDRL.
11. Waldo Leland, "The Creation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library: A Personal Narrative," *The American Archivist* 18 (Jan. 1955):

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21. cited in Cynthia M. Koch and Lynn A. Bassanese, "Roosevelt and His Library, Part 2," *Prologue* 33, 2: www.archives.gov/publications/prologue (accessed Mar. 22, 2004).

12. William J. Moore to John McShain Inc., Oct. 16, 1939; Basil O'Connor to John McShain Inc., Nov. 1, 1939; Chief Field Engineer to William J. Moore, Nov. 3, 1939, Box 46, Contract Changes and Modifications, Oct.-Dec. 1939; drawings were attached, Papers of Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library, Inc., FDRL. Simon interview with Palmer, 6.

13. Simon interview with Palmer, 5-6.

14. McShain, 24-25.

15. Felix Belair Jr., "Roosevelt Mocks Third Term; Dedicated Library," *New York Times*, Nov. 20, 1939.

16. McShain, 45-46.

17. William J. Moore, Weekly Progress Reports, Feb. 5, 1940, Box 47, Oct. 1939-Nov. 1940, Papers of Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library, Inc., FDRL. McShain, 68-69.

18. Simon interview with Palmer, 7-8.

19. John McShain Inc., to FDR, Jul. 8, 1941, cited in "Hyde Park: A Memoir."

20. FDR to John McShain Inc., Jul. 12, 1941, Box 3, File 6, Gatehouse-McShain, F. D. Roosevelt Library Administration, President's Personal Files, FDRL.

21. John G. Waite Associates, Architects, 329.

22. William B. Rhoads, "FDR Left Mark on Nation—and Area's Buildings," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, http://cityguide.pojonews.com/fe/Heritage/stories/he_fdr_left_mark.asp (accessed Oct. 24, 2005).

23. Toombs, "Doing Architecture with FDR," n.p.

24. Ibid., 4.

25. Samuel E. Morison, "The Very Essence of History," *New York Times*, magazine section, Mar. 19, 1939.

26. Fred W. Shipman, "The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library," *Library Journal* 66 (Jun. 15, 1941).

27. Leland, 21.

28. Geoffrey C. Ward, *Closest Companion, The Unknown Story of the Intimate Friendship between Franklin Roosevelt and Margaret Suckley* (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1995), 316.

29. Ibid., 423-24.

30. FDR to Samuel E. Morison, Feb. 28, 1938, Box 1, Folder 1937-Dec. 1938, President's Personal Files, FDRL.

31. Koch and Bassanese, "Roosevelt and His Library, Part 1."

32. FDR to Keith Morgan, May 25, 1938, in Elliott Roosevelt ed., *F. D. R.: His Personal Letters* (New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1950), 789.

33. Samuel Eliot Morison to FDR, March 11, 1938, Box 1, Folder 1937-Dec. 1938, President's Personal Files, FDRL.

34. William Yandell Elliott to FDR, Jan. 27, 1938, Box 1, Folder 1937-Dec. 1938, President's Personal Files, FDRL.

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35. Koch and Bassanese, "Roosevelt and His Library, Part 2."

36. Press Release, December 10, 1938, Box 1, Folder 1937-Dec. 1938, President's Personal Files, FDRL. In the press release Roosevelt pointed out how he had been carefully preserving his materials and how important it would be to keep them together, explaining also that "an opportunity exists to set up for the first time in this country what might be called a source material collection relating to a specific period in our history."

37. Toombs, "Doing Architecture with FDR," n.p. Ward, 237.

38. U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, *A Brief History of Presidential Libraries*, www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/about/history.html (accessed Oct. 6, 2005).

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www.archives.gov/publications/prologue (accessed March 22, 2004).

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www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/themes/Scanned%20Nominations/Presidential-Sites.pdf (accessed January 19, 2006)

Shipman, Fred W. "The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library." *Library Journal* 66 (June 15, 1941).

Toombs, Henry J., Papers, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta.

Ward, Geoffrey C. *Closest Companion, The Unknown Story of the Intimate Friendship between Franklin Roosevelt and Margaret Suckley*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1995.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

Previously Listed in the National Register.

Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.

Designated a National Historic Landmark.

Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #

Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

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- Federal Agency—Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
 Local Government
 University
 Other (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 16.31 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	18	588567.71	4624740.00
	18	588570.31	4624570.32
	18	588932.11	4624559.32
	18	588908.76	4624765.38

Verbal Boundary Description:

The land included in this nomination is the same parcel that was conveyed by Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife Anna Eleanor Roosevelt to the United States of America on July 24, 1939 and recorded in Dutchess County NY records Liber 576, page 227 has the following metes and bounds:

1. Beginning at a point in the line between the lands of Mary Newbold Morgan (now NPS) and Franklin D. Roosevelt (now NARA) at a monument marked "JW 1866" and running N. 86 d. 35' E 3.3 feet to
2. A point on the west side of the Albany Post Road that is the NE corner of the tract; then S 5 d 5' E along the west line of the Albany Post Road 679.8 feet to
3. The SE corner of the tract, then N 87 d. 27' W, 3.3 feet, to
4. A granite monument marked "US-FDR 1939" and then along lands of Sarah Delano Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt (now NPS), N 87 d. 27' W an additional distance of 1179.4 feet along lands of the same to
5. A granite monument marked "US-FDR 1939" which is the SW corner of the tract and from there N 0 d. 10' E 557.7 feet to
6. A granite monument marked "US-FDR 1939" which is the NW corner of the tract and then N 86 d. 35' E 1111.4 feet to
7. A granite monument marked "US-FDR 1939" then continuing N 86 d. 35' in the same line an additional 6.6 feet to the place of beginning.

The boundary of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum property is shown on the accompanying plat 1a (fig.) from the Abstract of Title for the property conveyed to the US Government on December 29, 1943. It is also shown together with the building footprint in a map from the 2010 Environment Assessment Report for the library (fig.)

Boundary Justification:

The property boundary has not changed since 1939 and follows the historical boundary illustrated on the plat.

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

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NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS SURVEY
March 3, 2016

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Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Setting. USGS.

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Figure 1. Library exterior viewed from the west with large tree in the foreground, March 1941. NARA. FDR Library.



Figure 2. Library exterior viewed from the east showing apple trees and sheep fence, March 1941. FDR Library.

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Figure 3. Library interior—document storage stacks on middle deck, March 1941. FDR Library.



Figure 4. Franklin D. Roosevelt with Eleanor Roosevelt and Tommy Qualters at cornerstone laying at library, November 19, 1939. FDR Library.

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Figure 5. Library interior—main exhibition room looking east towards main entrance, 1946. FDR Library.



Figure 6. Library interior—Eleanor Roosevelt galley in south wing, 1978. FDR Library.

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Figure 7. Library interior—President's study looking southeast, April 31, 1945. FDR Library.



Figure 8. Library exterior with Eleanor Roosevelt wings—viewed from the west, n.d. FDR Library.

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Figure 9. Library exterior with Eleanor Roosevelt wings—viewed from the east, n.d. FDR Library.



Figure 10. Library exterior viewed from east with old oak in front after Derujinsky bust was erected, 1949. FDR Library.

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Figure 11. Library exterior viewed from the southwest with Eleanor Roosevelt wings and exit near the President's study, n.d. FDR Library.



Figure 12. Library interior—research room, May 15, 1978. FDR Library.

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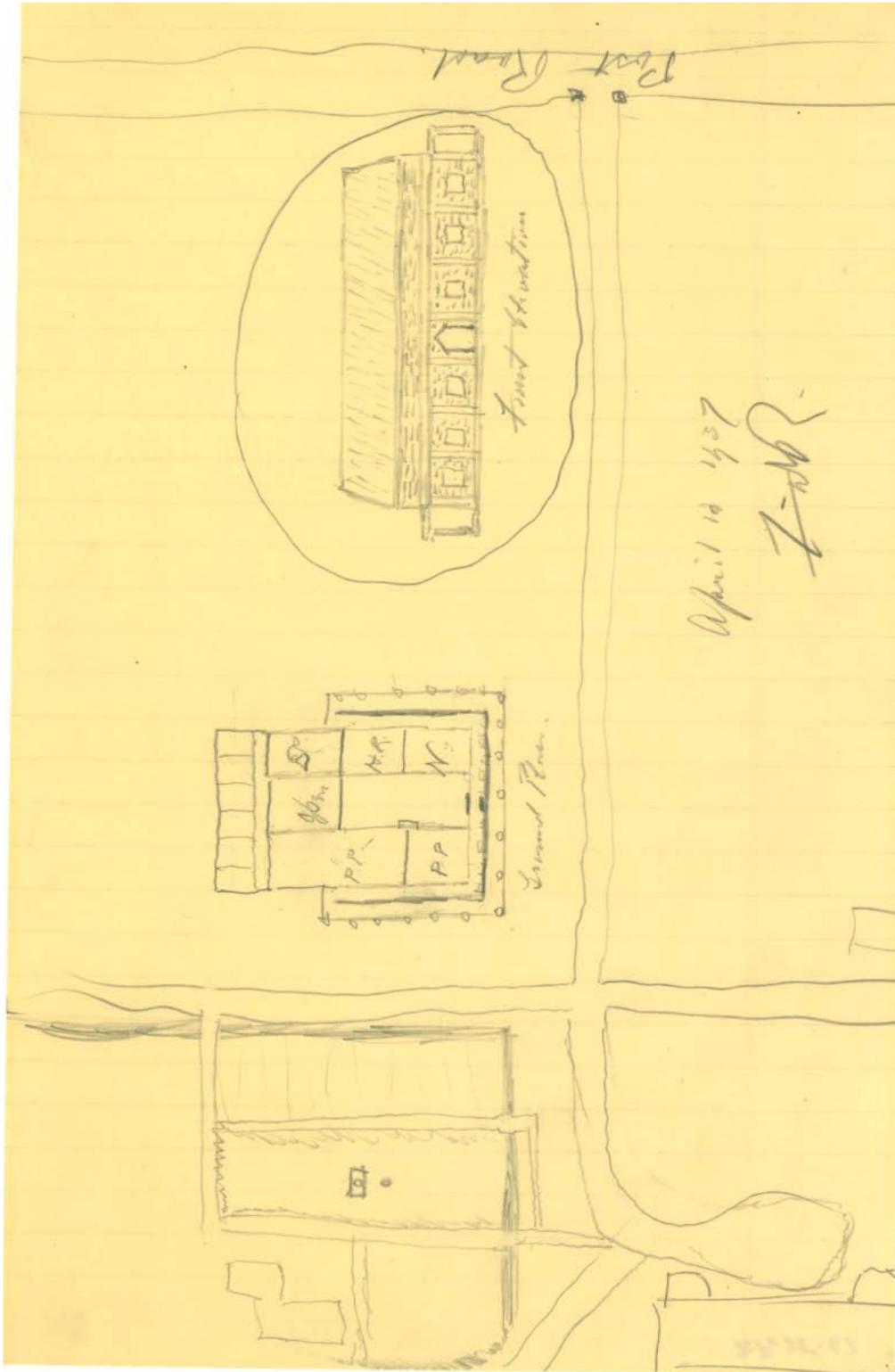


Figure 13. FDR's original pencil sketch of the Library, April 12, 1937. FDR Library.

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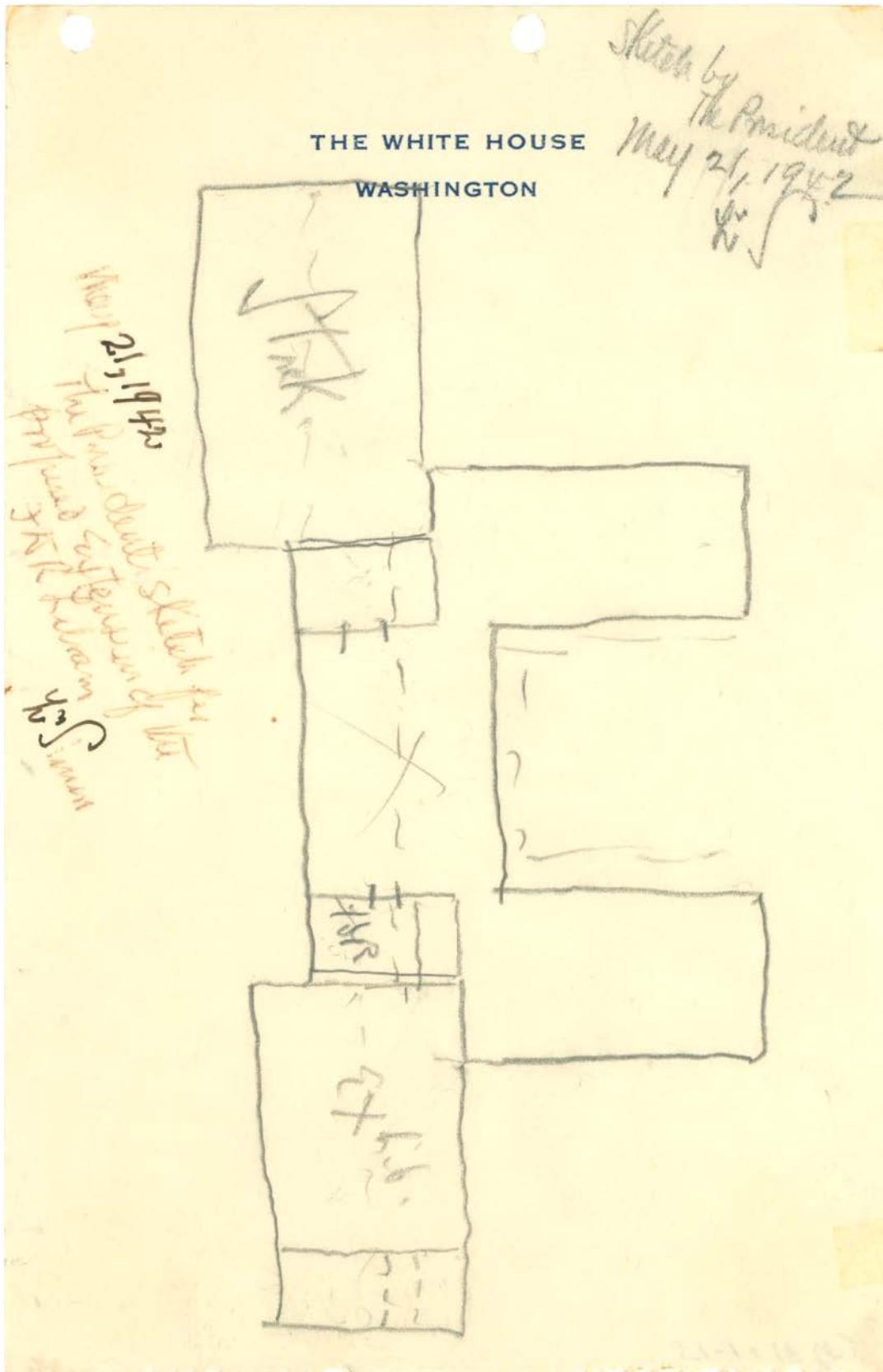


Figure 14. FDR's sketch of proposed extensions to Library, May 21, 1942. FDR Library.

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Figure 15. Gate house exterior—viewed from the northeast, 2006. Mount Ida Press.

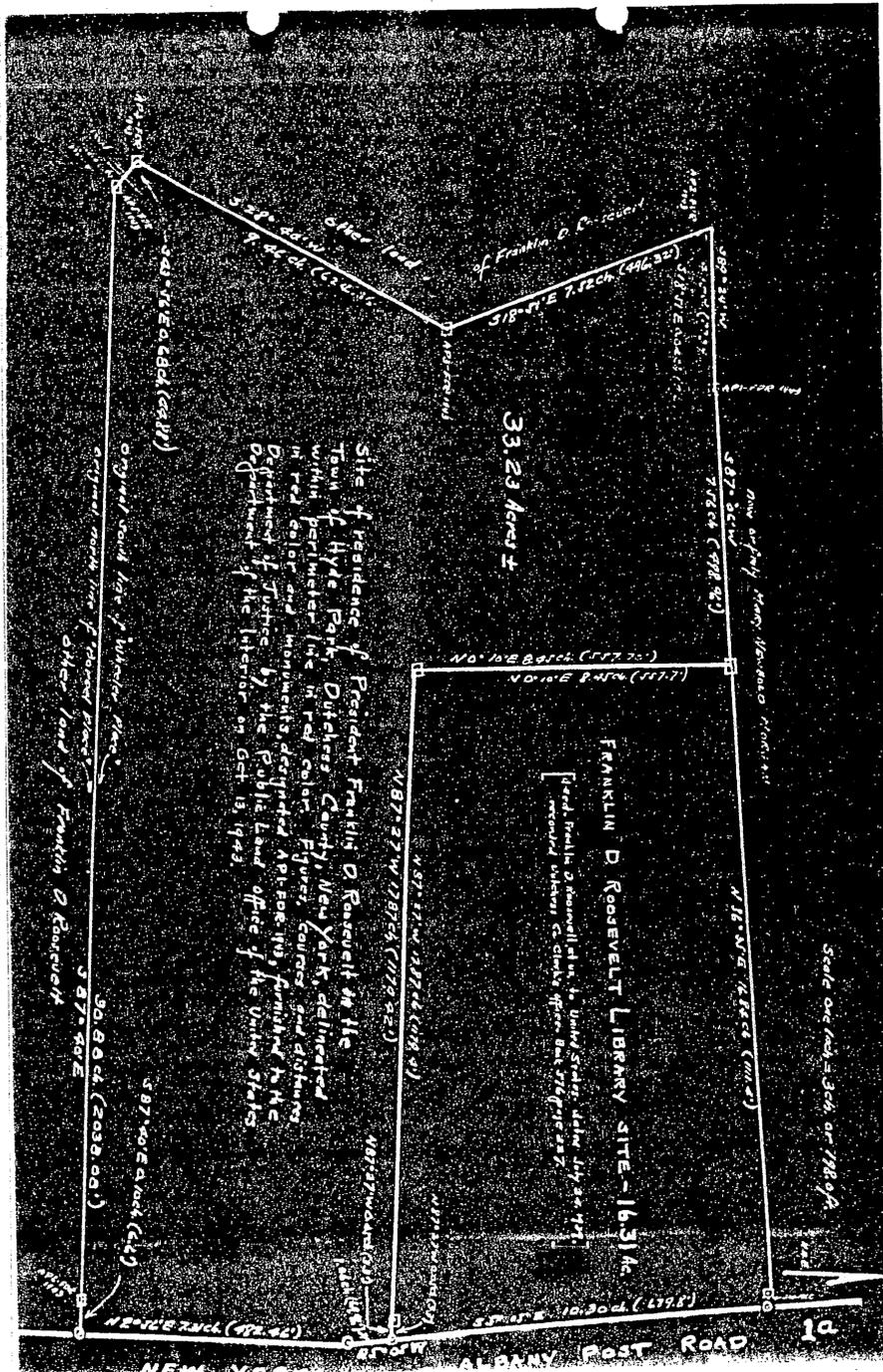
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Figure 16.

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Figure 18.

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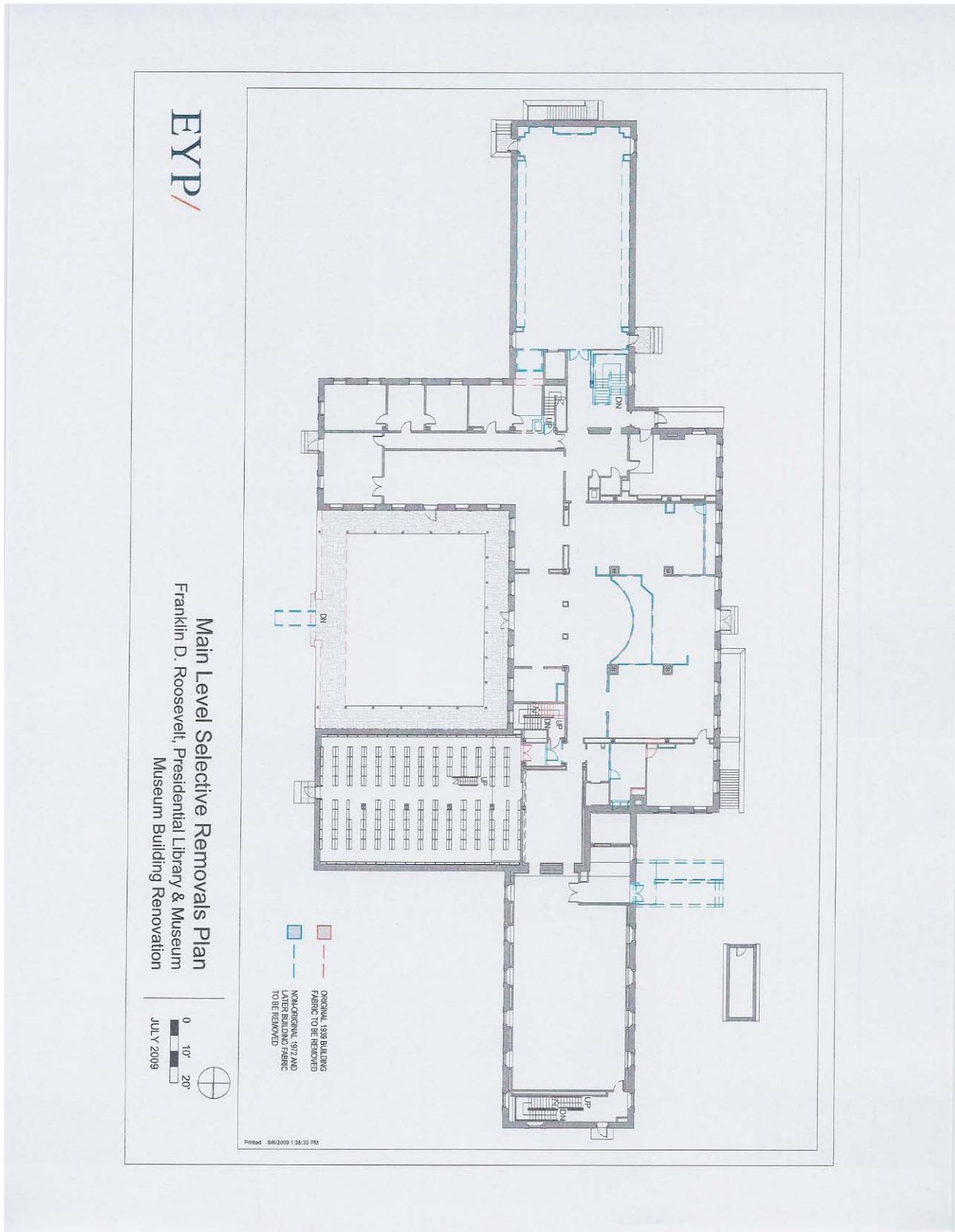


Figure 19.

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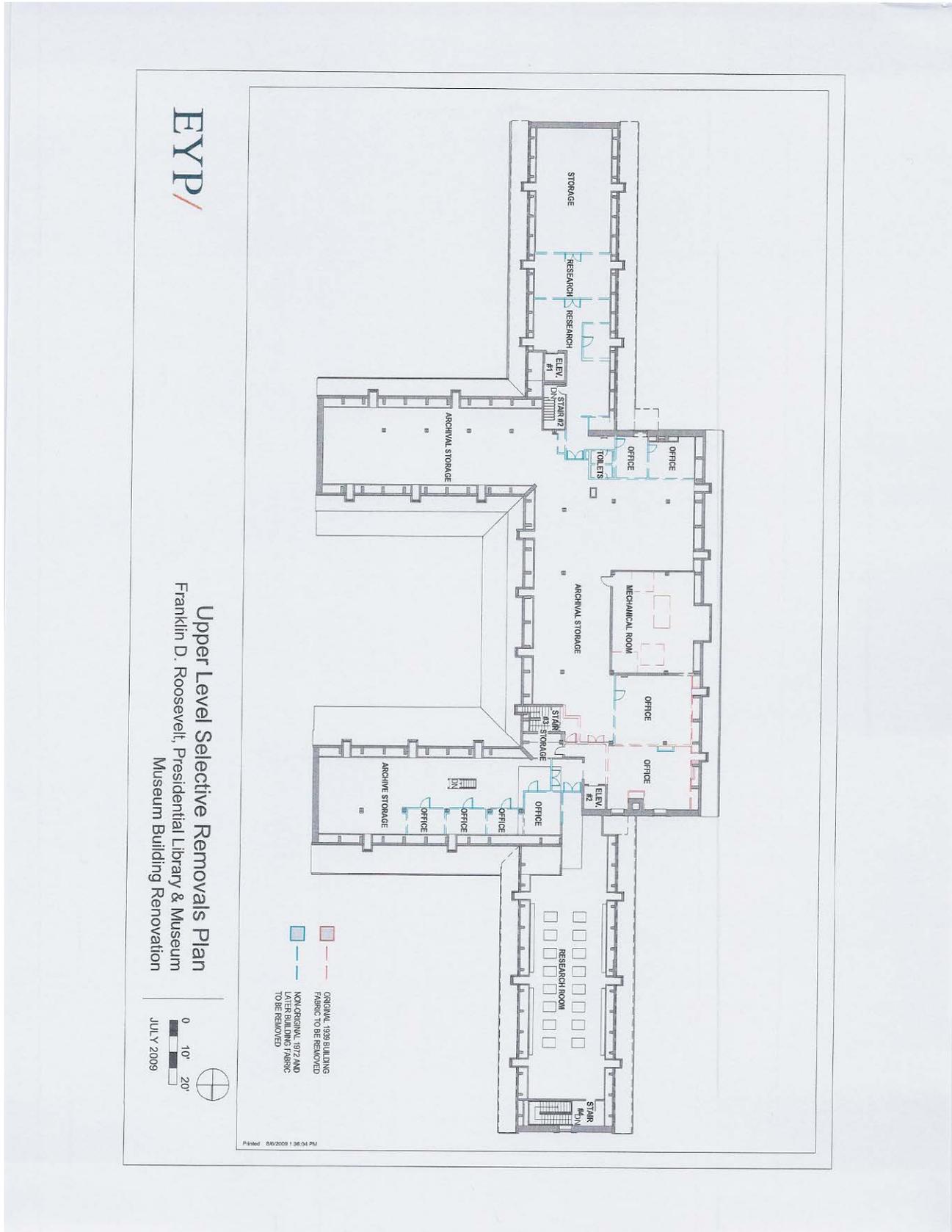


Figure 20.

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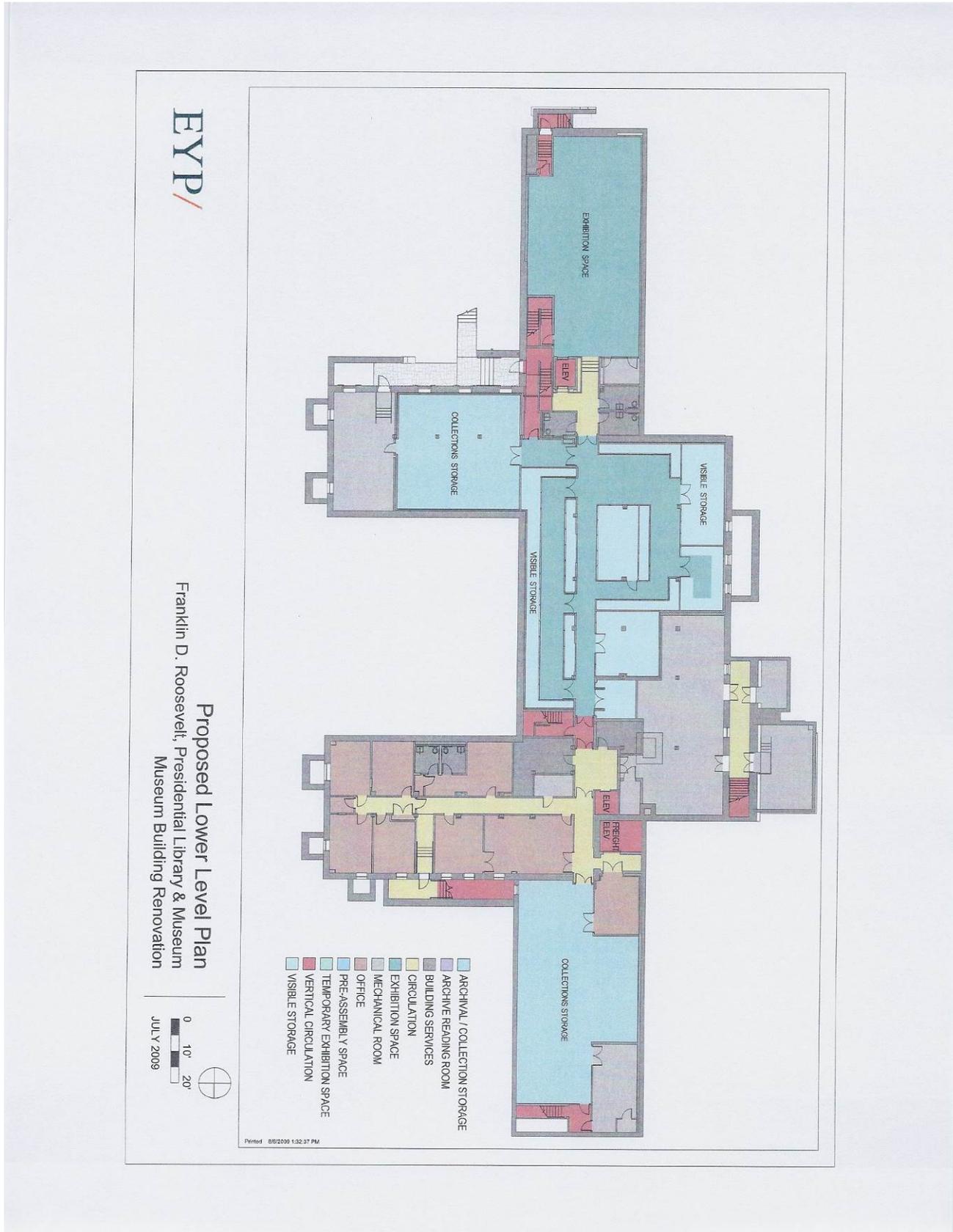


Figure 21.

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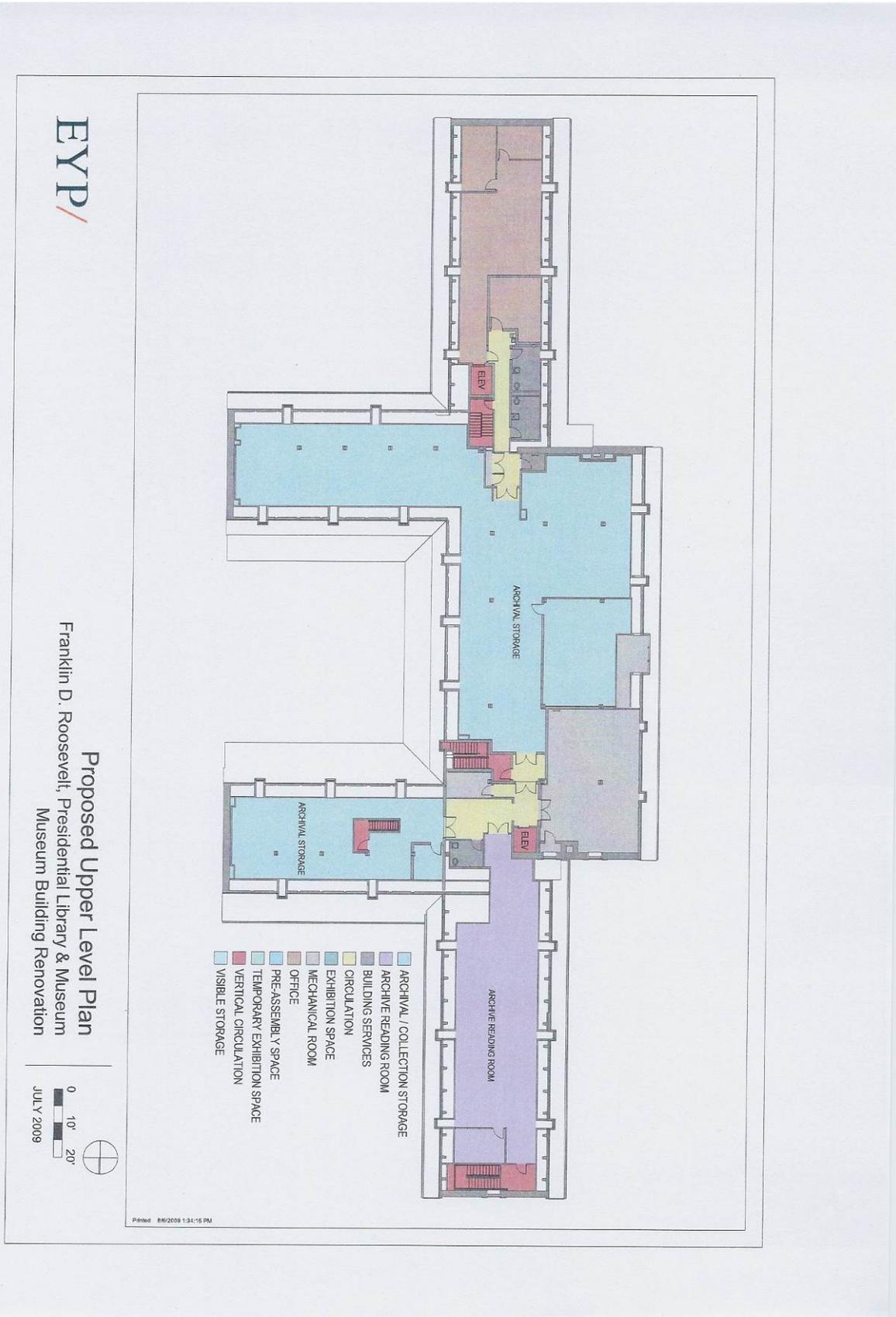


Figure 23.