

STEP BY STEP

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FREE With
Adult Admission



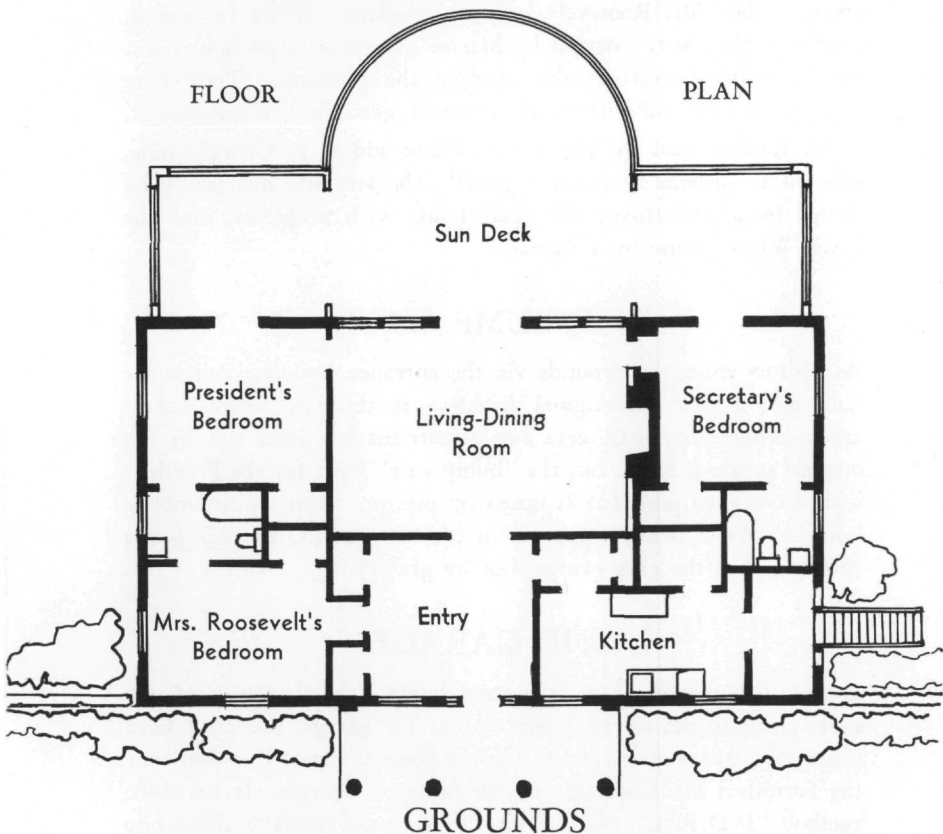
THROUGH THE
Little White House

*“I will build a cottage here
and begin a new life.”*

—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT [1931]

The above is quoted from an address by Mr. Fred Botts at The Little White House on January 30th, 1950, during the observance of the 68th anniversary of the President's birth. Mr. Botts, Registrar of the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation and long time associate of Mr. Roosevelt, said that this rugged and remote spot was so beautiful that Mr. Roosevelt suggested that they inspect it on horseback, their only way to get there. It was when they reached the rocky cliff that Mr. Roosevelt uttered the words quoted.

STEP BY STEP THROUGH THE LITTLE WHITE HOUSE



Care has been taken to make as few changes as possible in converting this private residence into an International Shrine. The road from the main highway, the parking lot, and the entrance building are new.

The President used the two driveway circles, one outside the gate, the other inside. The grounds remain as they were, except for the small entrance and exit gates. The inner circle has been surfaced to keep down dust and permit easier use of wheel chairs.

The three buildings within the gates were placed as designated by the President. The Little White House and servants quarters-garage were built and occupied in 1932 and the guest house in the fall of 1933.

GUARD HOUSES

The guard houses at the entrance gate and eight sentry boxes were erected when Mr. Roosevelt became President. While he was in residence, they were manned by Marine guards on a 24 hour basis. Secret Service operatives also guarded the President. They were stationed within and without the premises, according to assignment.

All lumber used in The Little White House is Georgia pine, selected to provide a uniform grade. The servants quarters were heated by a coal stove; the guest house with fireplaces; and the Little White House by a furnace.

THE BUMP GATE

As visitors enter the grounds via the entrance building and turnstile, they follow the original driveway to the gate where tickets are presented. A small gate for pedestrians has been cut in the original paddock fence, but the "bump gate" built for the President is in its original position. It opens by pressure from an automobile bumper. As it swings open on an eccentric pivot, the car passes through, then the gate swings shut by gravity.

THE GARAGE

Passing through the gate, the tour follows the driveway of the inner circle to the Garage. Arriving at the garage, the 1938 Ford convertible automobile is seen. On the front is the 1945 automobile tag furnished Mr. Roosevelt by the State of Georgia. It bears the symbols "F D R 1, 1945". This car has been specially treated to preserve it. The oil, gas and battery have been removed. The chassis and body underneath were sprayed with underseal to prevent rust. This is the last automobile the President drove while at Warm Springs. One door has been removed to show the large hand lever which applies the brakes as it releases the clutch.

The restored stagecoach is a Concord model, about 100 years old. It was in local service carrying passengers and mail to and from Warm Springs. Later, it served to transport guests from the railroad station to the old Meriwether Inn; also to take groups on picnic trips. It was retired as a relic to remain for years on exhibit on the porch of the Inn. It was there when Mr. Roosevelt bought the property in 1926.



THE GUEST HOUSE

The next point on the tour is the guest house, built by Mr. Roosevelt when he needed more room for guests after becoming President. Most of the furniture was made in the Val-Kill Shops established at Hyde Park, New York, by Mrs. Roosevelt to help the unemployed. There is an entry; a living room, a bathroom, and a bedroom with twin beds. The President's love for the sea is everywhere in evidence. The first item to be noted on the tour is a ship model on the mantel of the guest house.

THE LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

Leaving the guest house via the terrace and a newly laid flagstone walk, The Little White House is approached. In good weather the automobile normally stood before the door ready for the President's use. Over a ramped entrance he could wheel himself directly to the car, enter it unaided and drive expertly away. Also, to be noted at the entrance is a ship's lantern suspended over the portal. It was kept lighted when the President was here and is now on from dusk to dawn. The door knocker is a replica of a ship's anchor.

To the right of the entrance is a plaque of bronze mounted upon a boulder that was selected from the ravine in front of the house. This plaque was provided by the presidential electors who named the President for his fourth term in 1945. It was dedicated on June 25, 1947, and states, "FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT President Of The United States died in this house on April 12 1945 no soldier gave more on any battlefield than he who here gave his life for his country no greater martyr ever served the cause of freedom."

The Little White House has six rooms — three bedrooms, a combination living and dining room, the vestibule and kitchen. Instead of using the main entrance, visitors are routed over a ramp replacing the service entry into the kitchen in order to avoid retracing their steps. This entry contains an ice box, shelving for kitchen supplies and a garbage can. All remain as they were once used.

THE KITCHEN

Proceeding into the kitchen, the visitor is impressed with the Spartan simplicity of its furnishings and equipment. All that was needed is there but none in excess of ordinary needs.



The items are self-explained, except a penciled note on the woodwork above the stove near the pantry door. It says, "Daisy Bonner cook the first meal and the last one in this cottage for the President Roosevelt." She arranged her work for others so that she could serve the President on his visits to Warm Springs. The note was written by her on April 12, 1945.

The kitchen is left by a passageway which served as butler's pantry and china closet. The contents of these, as of the kitchen pantry, are as when in use while the President was here. On the top shelf of the butler's pantry are two hats. One is a Panama the President wore. The other is a brown derby which is believed to be a relic of the Al Smith presidential campaign of 1928.

ENTRY

Passing on, the visitor enters the hall just inside the main entrance. This small room contains the President's wheel chair; a chest of drawers mounted with a basket woven of pine needles and a shaded lamp; a drop leaf table, and, on the west wall, under glass, a Tapa tapestry woven of wood fiber and said to be a present from the South Sea Islands. Over the doors are shadow boxes containing ship models as there are over many other doors in the house.

Off the entrance hall is a closet with all original items in place. One is the famous table on which the President wrote and signed many papers. On the wall is Fala's dog chain; a quilt presumably used by the President when riding, and a canvas hat believed to have belonged to Miss Margaret Lehand, one of the President's secretaries. A rack has been added to show a pair of the President's monogrammed linen towels. One other closet adjoining the entry hall is kept locked. It contains various small mementos in storage.

MRS. ROOSEVELT'S BEDROOM

The bedroom adjoining the entrance hall was known as Mrs. Roosevelt's room, although it was also used for guests or the staff of the President when she was not here. It has twin beds and is furnished in keeping with the remainder of the house. On the wall facing the door is a framed cartoon by Gregg showing "Marse Franklin" on a "possum" hunt, given him by Georgia friends in 1930 at nearby White Sulphur Springs.



THE LIVING-DINING ROOM

On entering the living room, one faces French doors opening on the sun deck and flanked by windows that go to the floor. On the left is the dining table, six chairs and a Dutch type sideboard, all of maple made by Val-Kill Industries. On the sideboard are a Liverpool jug; a musical beer stein; a ship in a bottle, glassware and other items. Against the wall is a combination record player-radio cabinet. On the walls are pictures, one of John Paul Jones, another of a sailing ship, with a framed painting of the Roosevelt coat of arms. Two antique oval framed mirrors are also in place.

Opposite the dining side of the room, in the living side, is a rug given President Roosevelt. Symbolizing the New Deal, it shows horns of plenty, the words "New Deal"; a likeness of a unicorn, with various other figures. The fireplace is as it was with logs in place partly burned on April 12, 1945. Built in shelves on either side contain books the President owned. To these have been added books about the President, many presented and inscribed by the authors.

Over the mantel is a large ship model, painted black which the President helped to make of scrap lumber while at Warm Springs. Small items that once were on the mantel are now shown under glass in the Museum where they are better seen. Telephone sets of

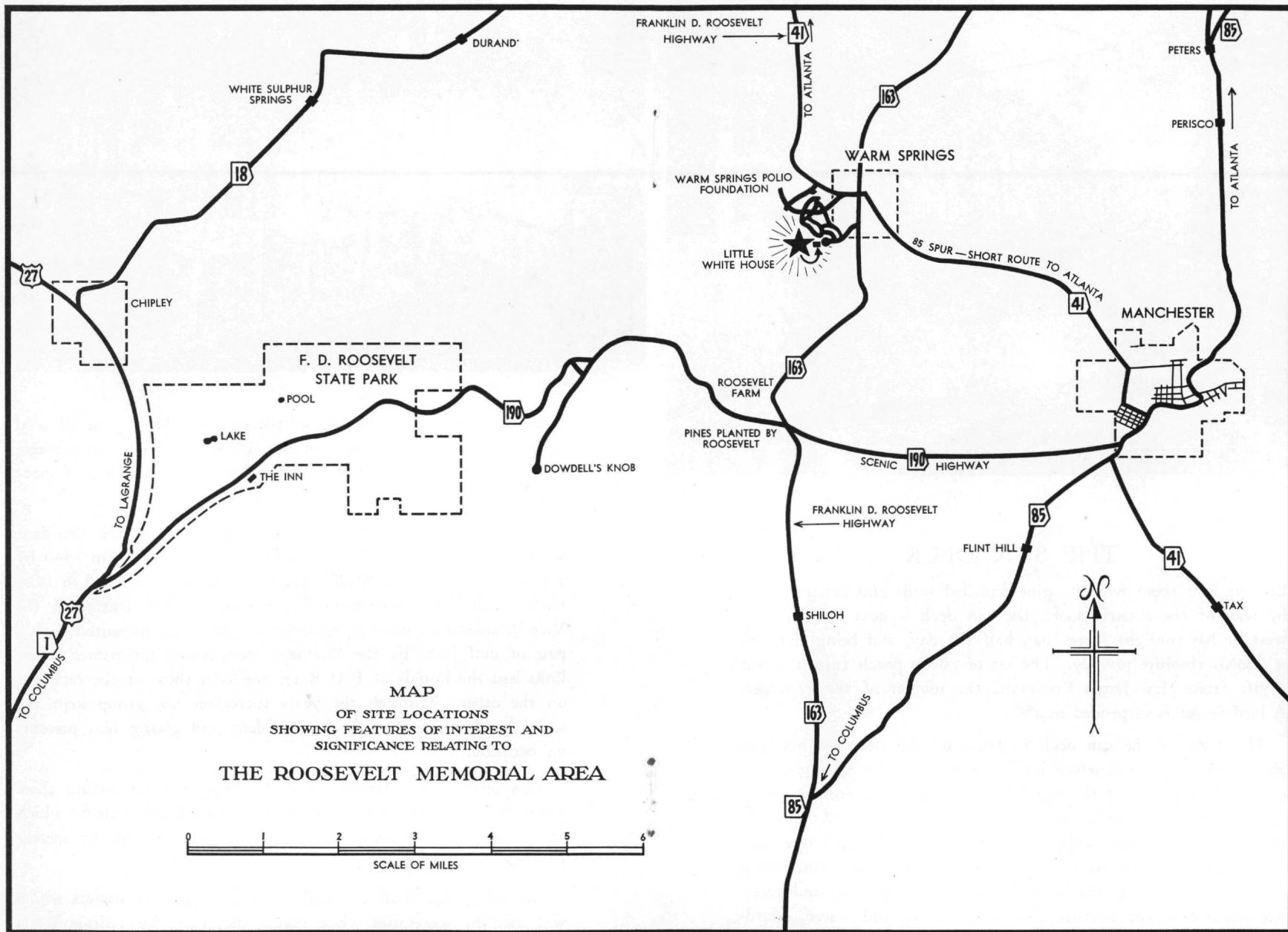


three eras are seen at the left of the mantel. They were all used successively by the President between 1924 and 1945. His portable hand set with a 25 foot extension cord for seven different connections in the house is shown in the Museum.

The brown leather chair was regularly used by the President when at The Little White House. It was given to him in 1940 by a group known as "The Cuff Links Club" which originated in 1920 with a half dozen members. These associates had assisted in the Vice-Presidential campaign of that year and were presented with a pair of cuff links by the President who coined the name. These links had the initials of F D R on one side; those of the recipient on the other. Through the years thereafter the group kept the social bond, meeting with the President and giving him presents on occasion.

This chair was a favorite and the President was sitting there when the fatal stroke came. Before it stands a work table on which the President could carry on a varied lot of activities by merely turning the revolving top.

Adjoining that chair and table is an arm chair on casters which was used by secretaries while taking dictation; by visitors for a chat, and by a valet to take the President from his arm chair to other parts of the house.





THE SUN DECK

Leaving this room with its pine panelled walls and hewn timbers by way of the French doors, the sun deck is next seen. Facing west, it has sunlight more than half the day, and being elevated, it affords absolute privacy. The set of rustic porch furniture was a gift from Mrs. James Roosevelt, the mother of the President. A bird feeder is suspended nearby.

The wing of the sun deck in front of this bedroom has been altered to permit a stairway leading down into the Museum. One other prime quality of the Sun Deck, in addition to providing sunshine for a good part of the day, is the splendid view. Immediately in front of the dwelling is a ravine beyond which is a steep wooded mountainside behind which the sun sets. That ravine broadens out to become a narrow valley to the north west, and across the lowlands in the distance a vista of high ground is seen, affording a magnificent panoramic view of gradually rising terrain of perhaps 25 miles.



THE PRESIDENT'S BEDROOM

To the left of the doors opening on the sun deck is the President's bedroom. On the floor is a small hooked rug, personalized by his name embroidered at one end; a chest of drawers; a sea chest; a Storm-O-guide on the wall; a bed table with lamp; and a specially made arm chair with a leathern seat, all as they were. There is a connecting bath.

The President's bed is three-quarter size with a tufted coverlet and a blanket folded across the foot. In a corner is a handsome flat top desk, with chair to match, a gift from devoted friends. The President rarely used this desk, doing his work on one of the portable tables already described. In perhaps this simplest room of the Little White House, the President showed his preference for modest living.

THE SECRETARY'S BEDROOM

Leaving his bedroom, while still on the sun deck, next is seen the bedroom at the other side of the living-dining room. This room was

used by one or another of the private secretaries who always accompanied the President. It is furnished with chest of drawers, small writing desk, a full sized bed and some chairs. This furniture, as the rest in the house, is of Val-Kill origin, made of hard maple.

Before taking leave of The Little White House, it is interesting to remember that it was planned for use in privacy and seclusion, but is now open to the public. A few changes were necessary. Glass doors were added to protect the pantries and linen closet. Grilled gates before the bedroom doors permit full views but not entry. Standards with guide ropes indicate the course that visitors are to take. Otherwise, the home remains as it was.

The Little White House represents Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was here that he loved to come for renewal of health and spirit. It was in this house that some of his greatest work was done.

THE MUSEUM

Now we proceed to the museum. It would take a volume to describe its contents. A fine collection of walking canes is there,



signifying an affection for the man who could not walk unaided. Most of these gifts are beautifully carved and decorated. Many of them are touchingly dedicated to the President.

Other cases contain mementos of wood, metal, paper and of specially woven fabrics. Many of them came in 1933, that year of depression when a mighty upsurge of grateful confidence radiated through the nation in response to the inspiring leadership of the President.

A sign over a museum case reads, "All articles shown were gifts to the President unless otherwise noted." The exceptions are gifts to this Memorial, made since the dedication in June, 1947.

The signatory Countries of the United Nations Charter were invited to send some small token to represent them in The Little White House. A number have responded and their gifts are shown in this Museum.

A significant and moving exhibit in this room is a case with all space devoted to articles once used by or in the service of the President.

When the museum exhibits have been reviewed, the tour of the Little White House is done. There remains an interesting stroll up a ramped walk leading from the exit door of the museum through the wooded grounds back to the point of entry. The time varies, of course. Walking through without halting long takes twenty minutes, but visitors frequently take an hour. There is no schedule, and every guest sets his own pace.

THE GUEST REGISTER

Outside the gate, there remain interesting things to see and do. A guest register is convenient where visitors from all the states and from 50 nations have entered their names since May, 1949.

TREE SECTION EXHIBIT

Beyond the guest register is a section of the trunk of a tree that once grew near the President's bedroom window. This great long leaf pine stood 50 feet high and was 250 years old when cut. The President sought to brace it with strong cables, but, in 1947, upon the advice of experts, the tree was felled because it was leaning

dangerously. Its wood has been retained to be made up into souvenirs.

The exhibited cross section shows the size of the tree at the time of our Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the Chronology of the President's life in tree rings. In order, these are: 1882, his birth; 1904, graduation; 1905, marriage; 1913, Assistant Secretary of the Navy; 1920, candidate for the vice-presidency; 1921, polio; 1927, Infantile Foundation established; 1928 and 1930, governor of New York; then the four election years as president, 1932, 1936, 1940, and 1944. The last, April 12, 1945, his death.

THE WISHING WELL

Next is the Wishing Well, designed by Henry J. Toombs, architect of The Little White House and all other buildings of this memorial. The wishing well gives visitors an opportunity to help carry on the continuous fight against polio which the President started. All proceeds go to the March of Dimes.

There remains the stroll back to the entrance building for a visit in the souvenir shop where mementos, souvenirs and post cards are available.

PICNIC FACILITIES

Leavetaking of the Memorial is not a matter to be hurried, as it is a pleasant place to visit for an hour or a day. Family reunions here are common practice. Other congenial groups make it a gathering place. There are picnic tables. Student groups in busses come from far and near.

THE ACREAGE

This memorial is far more than The Little White House and grounds. The center spread of this book shows its extent in distance and scope. The land presently owned is 2,835 acres with at least 1,100 more to be added. On these tracts are several points of interest, such as Dowdell's Knob, Cascade Falls, the Fire Tower and others awaiting development.

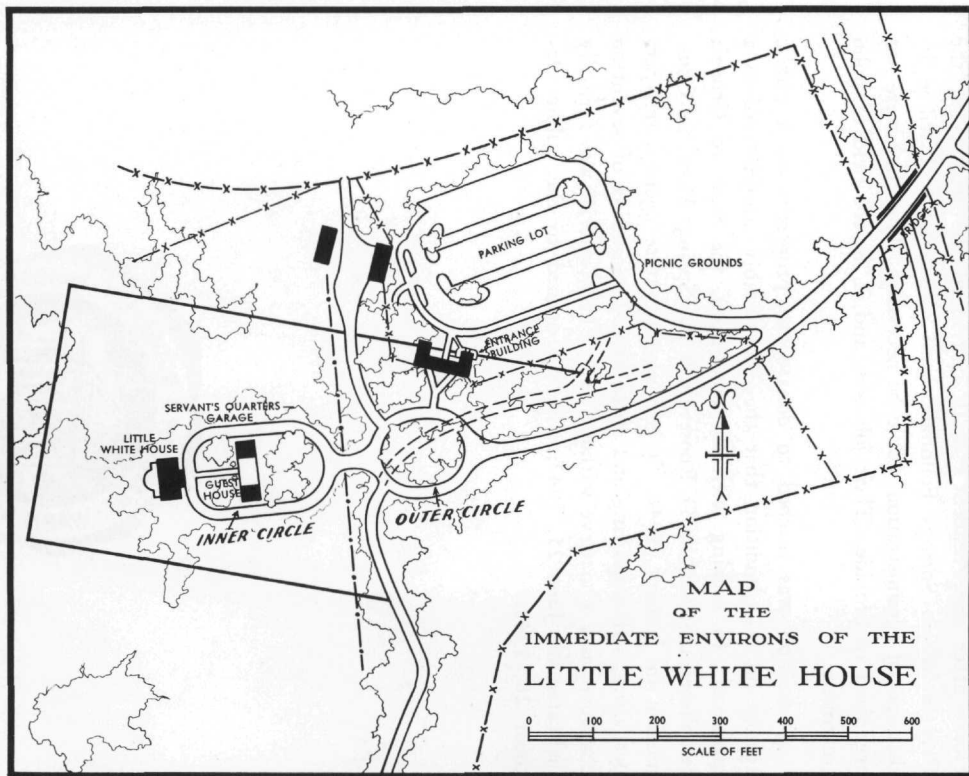
Other plans are in the formative stage, so some new phase or feature is being added frequently.

Organization of The Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission

The thousands of visitors who sought to see The Little White House after the President's death convinced the trustees of the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, to which he had willed it, that special administration would be necessary. This they were not organized to provide. Their job was, and is, in the field of polio treatment.

A decision was reached to donate the properties to a public agency on the condition that they be suitably administered as a memorial. In keeping with the conditions, the State of Georgia established the Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission in January, 1946. It is a separate state agency, self-perpetuating, self-supporting and autonomous, consisting of seventeen commissioners who serve without pay. The Memorial was formally dedicated on June 25, 1947, and was opened to the public October 28, 1948.





*THIS BOOKLET is included with each adult admission.
Envelopes for mailing are free upon request. Extra
copies in any quantity are 25 cents each.*

2

