INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Hyde Park

STATE
New York

STATE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
_District
_BUILDING(S)
_STRUCTURE
_OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
_X_PUBLIC
_-_PRIVATE
_-_BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
_IN PROCESS
_BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
_OCCUPIED
_X_UNOCCUPIED
_WORK IN PROGRESS
.ACCESSIBLE
_YES: RESTRICTED
_X_YES: UNRESTRICTED
_NO

PRESENT USE
_X_AGRICULTURE
_COMMERCIAL
_X_PARK
_EDUCATIONAL
/Private residence
_ENTERTAINMENT
_RELIGIOUS
_GOVERNMENT
_SCIENTIFIC
_INDUSTRIAL
_TRANSPORTATION
_MILITARY
_OTHER:

4 AGENCY
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (if applicable)
National Park Service, North Atlantic Region

15 State Street

CITY, TOWN
Boston

STATE
Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
_REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Dutchess County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER
22 Market Street

CITY, TOWN
Poughkeepsie

STATE
New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
Historic American Building Survey: Drawings of Boathouse and Coachhouse

DATE
1940's

DEPOSITORY FOR
_SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
GOOD
FAIR
DETERIORATED
RUINS
UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
ALTERED
ORIGINAL SITE
MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site is located in Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York, approximately 80 miles north of New York City. The 212-acre estate is bounded on the east by the Albany Post Road (U.S. Route 9) and on the west by the Hudson River. The focus of the estate is the 1896-99 Mansion built by the prominent architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White. The original estate was purchased by Frederick W. Vanderbilt in 1895 from Walter Langdon, Jr., who had acquired the property through his grandfather, John Jacob Astor.

During the Vanderbilt tenure, there were about 676 acres of land including the Howard Mansion, a farm, and the Wales Residence which are no longer part of the property. Vanderbilt undertook a major redevelopment of the property. Only two buildings remain, the Tool House and the Gardener's Cottage, from the years before the Vanderbilt tenure.

The eastern part of the estate was made into a carriage drive through the forest, and a pond was enlarged to form a miniature lake. A large standpipe, 10,000 feet of water pipe, and a large dam and reservoir were installed to form a water system. A powerhouse was built that generated the electricity and pumped the water needed by the estate buildings. Vanderbilt organized extensive forestry operations and had two palm houses built. An old frame bridge spanning Crum Elbow Creek was replaced by the White Bridge, a modern concrete and steel structure, noteworthy in its time for its engineering.

The grounds were extensively landscaped with formal Italian gardens, five greenhouses, hundred of specimen shrubs and trees, a pool garden and a rose garden which were graced by pergolas, loggias, arbors, garden houses, walls and hedges. A creek was transformed with dams, sculptured pools and handsome bridges.

The Sexton estate was acquired in 1906 and all buildings except for a boathouse were demolished and the land adapted to the Vanderbilt "park plan."

Of the presently existing buildings, the Mansion is most nearly the same as when the Vanderbilts lived there. The exterior of the other buildings with the exception of the Pavilion and gatehouses have not been altered. All roads and trails are historic and retain their original alignments and, generally, their original width. The estate was enclosed by stone walls and fences which, for the most part, retain their original appearance.

The following historic buildings and structures remain on the grounds:

1. Vanderbilt Mansion (No. HS1)

Vanderbilt Mansion was designed by Charles Follen McKim, of the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, in the then fashionable Beaux-Arts style. The Indiana limestone Mansion was built by the construction firm of (James A. and Oscar W.) Norcross Brothers of Worcester, Massachusetts and New York City. The construction of the Mansion began in October, 1896 and was completed in March, 1899. Rooms in the Mansion were decorated
**SIGNIFICANCE**

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**SPECIFIC DATES** 1896-1899

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT** Charles Follen McKim

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hyde Park country estate of Frederick W. Vanderbilt is significant because it is a splendid artifact of the period between the Civil War and World War I when financiers and industrialists lived in a style which consciously emulated European pomp. The fifty room Beaux Arts Mansion designed by McKim, Mead and White, the most prestigious architectural firm of the era, is a significant and well-proportioned example of palatial architectural style. The opulent interiors of the mansion were designed and furnished by leading interior decorators. These interiors represent a variety of styles.

During the late nineteenth century about one-tenth of the population controlled ninety percent of the nation's wealth. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, the grandson of "Commodore" Cornelius Vanderbilt, who amassed a fortune in shipping and railroads, was a product of this era and one of the upper ten percent.

In 1885, Frederick inherited $10,000,000 from his father, William Henry Vanderbilt. At the time of his father's death, Frederick was the director of several railroads and subsequently used a financial base of $12,000,000 to increase his own fortune. He eventually became the director of 43 railroads including the New York Central. His estate at his death in 1938 was valued at $77,000,000. It was with such access to wealth that he could afford to spend two and a quarter million dollars on the Hyde Park Mansion in the Hudson River Valley where he lived with his wife, Louise.

Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt used the Mansion periodically during the spring and fall of the year. During November and December they resided at their New York City townhouse in order to participate in the social season; during March and April they would enjoy yachting off the coast of Florida.

Between 1900 and World War One the Vanderbilts also built but did not concurrently own summer residences in Newport, Rhode Island; the Adirondacks; and Bar Harbor, Maine. After Mrs. Vanderbilt's death in 1926, Mr. Vanderbilt took up permanent residence at the Hyde Park Mansion.

The setting of the estate is as much an important resource as the buildings or persons who lived there. The gardens and grounds represent important trends in the history of landscape architecture. The estate is the site of one of the earliest horticultural endeavors in the United States, begun in the late eighteenth century by Samuel Bard. The Italian Gardens existed in 1830 as part of Dr. David Hosack's estate, were continued by Walter Langdon, and were revised and enlarged in 1902-3 by James L. Greenleaf for
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Vanderbilt Mansion" Master Plan (National Park Service, 1971)
Weatherwax, Mary B. "Documentary Report on the Vanderbilt Pavilion" (NPS, 1958)
Various historic structure reports from park files in regional office.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 213

UTM REFERENCES

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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B 18 587 520 46 26 620
C 18 587 520 46 26 620
D 18 587 520 46 26 620

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See enclosed Historical Base Map.

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

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FORM PREPARED BY

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STREET & NUMBER

15 State Street

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES__ NO__ NONE__

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

First Dir., Cultural Resources

DATE

6/29/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

Oct. 6, 1980

ATTACH

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Oct. 6, 1980

GPO 899-214
by Georges A. Glaenzer and Ogden Codman as well as by McKim, Mead and White. The cost of the Mansion, unfurnished and without fixtures, was $660,000.

In 1906 the Mansion underwent its final alteration when prominent architect Whitney Warren was called in to make changes in the living room, main hall and second story hall including the removal from the living room ceiling of a mural by H. Siddons Mowbray which the Vanderbilts disliked.

The three-story Mansion has 54 rooms on four levels, including servants' quarters and utility rooms like the kitchen and laundry. The entire construction of brick, concrete and steel is faced with Indiana limestone and has a sheet copper roof.

The Vanderbilt Mansion is a restrained residential interpretation of a style that leaned towards the monumental in scale. The four fluted Corinthian columns support an elaborately carved portico entablature and introduce a doorway surmounted by a single large-scaled round arch window at the second story.

The Mansion's interiors are lavishly decorated in the Beaux-Arts manner. The surfaces are embellished with architectural detail, gorgeous tapestry, priceless rug, exquisite vases, objects d'art and other finely crafted furnishing. The room motifs are predominantly French and Italian.

2. The Pavilion (No. HS2)

The Pavilion, designed by McKim, Mead and White, was erected by Norcross Brothers in 1895 in 66 working days, September 8 to November 24, 1895, on the site of the old Langdon carriage house. The Pavilion was used by the Vanderbilts as a residence during the construction and furnishing of the Mansion.

The Pavilion is basically a classical structure in style. It has a porticoed doorway centered on the east façade with four fluted Greek Doric columns supporting a pediment which has a patterned colonial fanlight. The exterior also features shuttered 6-over-6 double-hung sash windows, pilasters, and a third story balustrade, the "Captain's Walk" which resembles a yacht deck.

The two-story structure has a complete basement, a storage room over the second floor and a canvas-covered deck. The roof, once covered with wooden shakes, is now shingled. The exterior walls of the building are "pebble-dashed" (mortar with sea gravel spattered over it) and are painted a creamy yellow. The Pavilion contained approximately 16 rooms.

After Mrs. Vanderbuilt's death in 1926, the Pavilion was closed up. In 1940 the Pavilion was reopened as a restaurant and inn. The basement was rearranged and
features in first and second story rooms were repaired and repainted. From 1954-77
the visitor center and the park office were located in this building, and changes
made in the interior, while necessary, were kept to a minimum.

3. Gardener's Cottage (No. HS3)

The Gardener's Cottage is a slate-roofed, two-story brick and frame structure. The
residence was designed by John H. Sturgis and Charles Brigham, Architects, of Boston
in 1874 and was constructed in 1875 by Walter Langdon who then owned the estate. It
has five rooms, one bath and a full basement with a concrete floor poured in 1940.
It is now used as an employee residence.

The asymmetrically massed house is Italianate in style with some round-headed windows,
bracketing, deeply recessed and ornamented eaves, and decorative windows. This style
is in keeping with the picturesque qualities Langdon established with his park-like
grounds.

4. Tool House (No. HS4)

The Tool House is a two-story brick building with a slate roof. On the first floor
it contained a tool room used for the storage of mowers, grass cutters and miscellaneous
equipment used by the gardeners, a bathroom and a potting room. The second floor held
an office, which was used in connection with the operation of the flower gardens, green­
houses, and for maintenance of the grounds. The high-ceilinged basement under the Tool
House held two coal-burning boilers and coalbins which supplied heat for the Tool House,
the Carnation House and the two Palm Houses.

The Tool House, also built by Walter Langdon in 1875, was designed by John H. Sturgis
and Charles Brigham, Architects, of Boston. It is Italianate in style, with deeply
recessed and ornamented eaves, a round-headed doorway set in a second story porch
with a decorative sawn wood railing, bracketing and a board-and-batten clad upper
story. Until 1954 it was connected to the Gardener's Cottage by the Carnation Green­
house. It is currently used as an employee's residence.

5. Coach House (No. HS5)

The Coach House was designed by architect Robert Henderson Robertson of New York City
and was built by Norcross Brothers in 1897. Further alterations were made to the
building by the architect in 1910 so that it could also be used as a garage.

The Coach House is a two-story brick Queen Anne structure with a red tile shingled
gable roof. It has bracketing, tall pinnacles, a large cupola and massive chimneys.
In 1940 the first floor contained a garage, a fully-equipped machine shop, a coach room with parquet floor, a washroom, a harness room, a saddle room, a feed room, seven double stalls and an office. There was a hanging loft located over the stall room, garage and machine shop. The remainder of the second floor contained a living room, seven bedrooms for Coach House employees, and two baths.

The building has been modified slightly for use as park maintenance area. Conversion of the quarters for footmen, chauffeurs, etc. on the upper level into two apartments by the National Park Service resulted in minor alterations.

6. Main Gate House (No. HS6)

The Main Gate House was designed by McKim, Mead and White and was built by Norcross Brothers in 1898. It was part of the Vanderbilt's estate redevelopment and echoes the classical Beaux-Arts styling of the Mansion.

The building is a two-story house, constructed of Indiana smooth-cut limestone and has a copper roof. There are five rooms and one bath, and it is currently an employee's residence. There are large wrought iron entrance gates nearby. A frame section has been added by the National Park Service for enlargement of staff living quarters.

7. Lower Gate House (No. HS7)

The Lower Gate House was designed by McKim, Mead and White and was built by Norcross Brothers in 1898. It echoes the classical Beaux-Arts styling of the Mansion.

The two-story structure is faced in smooth-cut Indiana limestone and has a copper roof. A frame addition on the rear was put there ca. 1901. The basement is situated only under the stone portion of the house. There are six rooms and one bath. Currently the building is used as an employee residence.

8. Power House (No. HS8)

The Power House is a romantic fieldstone building with a slate roof and swept dormers and nestles in the woods beside Crum Elbow Creek. A porch with crudely fashioned arches opens to the deep umbrage and entryway. Double-arched leaded glass windows are separated by heavy fieldstone mullions. Both the porch and main block have bellcast hipped roofs and deeply overhanging eaves.

The building contained a shop, battery room and pump room. The structure was designed and built by the engineering firm of W. T. Hiscox and Company of New York City in 1897. The building was heated by a stove. All electricity for the estate, from 1897 until sometime in the 1930's, was generated from this building. After 1940 electric power
was obtained from the Central Hudson Gas & Electric Company. The meters for the Power House, Mansion, Pavilion, Greenhouses and Coach House were all located in the Power House.

In 1940 the water pump, a Gould Triplex pump dating from 1899, was still operating in the Power House. It was powered by a 11' water wheel operating on a 25" head. The water to operate this pump was obtained from Sherwood Pond and was piped to the Power House through a 30" penstock. In addition to the water power, there was also a 7 1/2 h.p. General Electric motor that was used to operate the pump during dry seasons when there was not sufficient water in Crum Elbow Creek for the operation of the water wheel. The roof and porch of this building were restored in 1973. The equipment is still present in the power house.

9. Pool House (No. HS16)

The Pool House was built in 1903 as a part of the Italian Gardens development devised by landscape architect James L. Greenleaf. The Pool House is a small, open-air, arcaded structure with Tuscan columns framing a stylized statue of a young woman. Inside is a stone banquette from which the gardens and the circular pool may be contemplated out of the direct sunlight. The Pool House has a tiled, hipped roof with a deep overhang.

10. Loggia (Garden House) (No. HS17)

The Loggia was erected in 1910 by the landscape architects Thomas Meehan & Sons. It is a brick structure with pink stucco outer covering and tiled gabled roof. The open-air entrance has three rounded arches supported by four Tuscan columns.

11. Pergola (No. HS18)

The Pergola, located near the Gardener's Cottage, was planned and built by landscape architect James L. Greenleaf in 1903 and remodeled by Robert B. Cridland, landscape architect, in 1922. Most of the superstructure, including wooden arbor and semi-circular terra-cotta bench, was removed by the National Park Service in 1951. A series of squared brick columns and badly deteriorated tile floor are all that remain on site. However, a portion of the terra-cotta bench and the Tuscan columns are in storage for future restoration of the Pergola. When restored, the wooden arbor top which supported vines and other plants will be added.

12. White Bridge (No. HS21)

The White Bridge was designed and erected in 1897 by the New York City engineering firm of W. T. Hiscox and Company. A melan single-arch span, it is reputed to be one of the first steel-reinforced concrete bridges to have been built in the United States.
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The roadway over the bridge is flanked by a decorative balustrade on either side with acanthus leaf ornamented urns placed on pedestals at intervals and planted with various flowers and vines.

13. Rustic Bridge (No. HS22)

The Rustic Bridge, designed by the Norcross Brothers, erected in 1897, is a two-arch reinforced concrete bridge that has been rusticated with a fieldstone cladding. The voussoirs are of quarry-faced granite, as are the copings and endposts flanking the roadway.

14. Lower Dam (No. HS23)

As part of the estate's water power generating system, the Lower Dam was built in 1898. The Dam is faced with rubble in concrete and has reinforced concrete retaining walls.

15. Power House Dam (No. HS24)

The Power House Dam was built in 1897 by the engineering firm of W. T. Hiscox and Company as part of the overall scheme to generate water power for the estate. It is constructed of stone and mortar and extends 46 feet in length.

16. White Bridge Dam (No. HS27)

The White Bridge Dam, constructed of fieldstone and mortar, was built in 1897 and supplemented the water power generating system of the estate. The dam was repaired in 1972.

17. Railroad Bridge (No. HS25)

This metal, overhead bridge, connecting the Bard Rock section of the estate with the park portion, was erected by the New York Central Railroad in 1912.

18. West Half of Albany Post Road Bridge (No. HS26)

This fieldstone and concrete bridge was erected in 1898 from $19,000 donated to the Town of Hyde Park by Mr. Vanderbilt for this purpose. The bridge was designed by Owen Morris, Civil Engineer of Hyde Park and Poughkeepsie. In 1922 the southern approaches to the bridge were widened to 32 feet. In 1928 a concrete arch was added to form a third lane. The present center and west lanes are the original portion of the bridge.
19. The Italian Gardens (No. HS 36)

Considerable remnants of the extensive Italian formal gardens are visible today. The Vanderbilt gardens are on the site of the gardens developed by Dr. David Hosack who lived on this estate in 1830. Walter Langdon, who succeeded Hosack, maintained similar gardens in the same vicinity. The only change Vanderbilt made to the Langdon gardens during the period 1895 to 1897 was the addition of four greenhouses. Extensive changes were made to the gardens during the period of 1903 to 1934.

The gardens were compartmented into three main units when Vanderbilt Mansion was established in 1940:

a. The Greenhouse Gardens - This section was divided into three separate parterre gardens of varying levels and was set within a rectangle, framed on the west side by the Rose Houses and Palm Houses, and on the north side by the Carnation House, the Gardener's Cottage and Tool House. This portion of the garden contained geometric garden beds that had evolved from the 1897 garden. A potting shed still remains.

b. The Cherry Walk circa 1934 and Pool Gardens - This section, which evolved from the 1897 garden, was located at a lower level immediately east of the greenhouse gardens and progressed from the pergola to the pool house. The term "Cherry Walk" dates from circa 1934.

c. The Rose Garden - This section was located at a low grade immediately east of the cherry walk and pool gardens, and extended eastward to the Loggia. The rose garden was divided into two levels, each containing panel beds. The rose garden was added to the other two garden sections in 1910.

20. Stone Walls and Gates

The fieldstone walls and gates of the original estate were completed in 1898. The longest portion ran along the east boundary at the west side of Albany Post Road and extended 180 feet south of the present park boundary. Another section followed the south boundary along the north sides of West Market Street and Dock Street. This section extended about 700 feet east of the present park boundary to Doty Avenue leading to Stoutenburgh Cemetery. A small portion extended about 125 feet north from Dock Street along the New York Central right-of-way near the river.

The total length of boundary wall built in 1898 and within the present National Park Service boundary is approximately 4500 feet. This does not include the elaborate limestone and wrought iron entrance gate, the main gate at U.S. 9 or the Dock Street
gate. The east wall is dressed stone, from three feet to five-and-one-half feet high and two feet thick. The part adjacent to the main gate was originally surmounted by wrought iron spikes which were removed and used for scrap metal during World War II. There was apparently no wall at the north end of the property, merely a post-and-rail fence until 1905 when Vanderbilt acquired the 64-acre Sexton property to the north. The stone boundary wall was extended about 1450 feet and included a new north gate.
Frederick W. Vanderbilt. A number of specimen trees, many from Europe and Asia, some in place for almost two hundred years, are planted throughout the grounds.

The White Bridge built in 1897 was one of the first steel and concrete bridges in the United States.

The furnishings of the Mansion reflect turn-of-the-century interior decorator's room designs in which furnishings were generally treated as an integral part of the interior architecture. The furniture consists largely of a mix of pre-nineteenth century antiques and high quality reproductions of earlier period pieces. Most of the paintings are of the salon type, popular with most wealthy Americans of that era. The Mansion houses a particularly fine collection of Flemish and French tapestries as well as French and oriental rugs.

Interpretively, the site is not restricted to the Frederick W. Vanderbilts. It is expressive of the lifestyle of Americans of their class during the first two decades of the Twentieth Century. A large collection of fine quality, late nineteenth-century horse-drawn carriages and coaches (only four of which have F. W. Vanderbilt provenance) and three F. W. Vanderbilt automobiles are exhibited in the north wing of the Vanderbilt Coachhouse.
1. White Bridge (Vanderbilt NHS)
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. deck and span of White Bridge
7. 8
1. Loggia (Vanderbilt NHS)
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. Entrance to formal gardens
7. 8
1. Subway (Vanderbilt Mansion NHS)
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. View east toward Albany Post Rd.
7. 9
1. Pool House (Vanderbilt NHS)
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. north elevation (in formal gardens)
7. 10
1. Potting Shed (Vanderbilt NHS)
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. south and east elevations
7. 18
1. Tool House (Vanderbilt NHS)
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. south elevation
7. 19

JUL 9 1979
1. Gardener's Cottage (Vanderbilt NHS)
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. south elevation facing gardens
7. 22
1. Power House (Vanderbilt Mansion NHS)
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. front elevation
7. 23

JUL 9 1979
1. Vanderbilt Mansion (Vanderbilt NHS)
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. east elevation
7. 23
1. Vanderbilt Mansion NHS
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. Coachhouse rear elevation
7. 24
1. The Pavilion (Vanderbilt NHS)
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. east elevation
7. 26
1. The Pavilion (Vanderbilt NHS)
2. Hyde Park, New York
3. Bronwyn Krog
4. August 1978
5. NARO
6. south elevation
7. 27