

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York
COUNTY: New York
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

29 East 20th Street

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

12

STATE:

New York

CODE

036

COUNTY:

New York

CODE

061

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☒ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☒ Museum	☒ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____	☐ Comments _____ _____ _____
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4. AGENCY

National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

North Atlantic Region

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STREET AND NUMBER:

150 Causeway

STATE:

Mass.

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

New York City Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

31 Chambers Street

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE:

New York

CODE

036

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

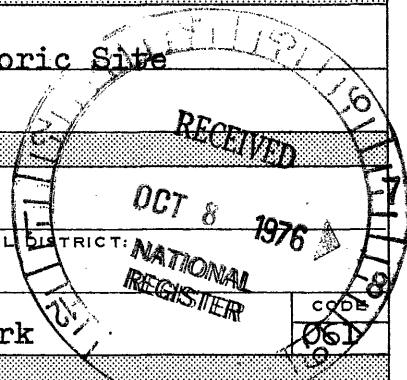
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS, established in 1963, is a total reconstruction of the four-story brownstone house where he was born on October 27, 1858. This house was the family home until 1873. After 1873 the house suffered a series of alterations for commercial purposes, degerating finally into a two-story brick structure. In 1919 the Women's Roosevelt Memorial Association purchased the birthplace site for the purpose of reconstructing the home as the Roosevelt s had known it. Architect for the project was Theodate Pope(Mrs. John Wallace Riddle), of the American Institute of Architects. Mrs. Riddle based her plans for the reconstruction on the design of Robert Roosevelt's house, next door. Robert Roosevelt was Theodore's uncle.

As reconstructed, half of the house was a replica of the original Roosevelt house and the other half a museum and library. The rebuilders followed every clue that promised to bring them either authentic information concerning the appearance of the original house or actual pieces of furniture which were in it. The house has a basement, a parlor, library and dining room on the first floor; the second and third floors have three bedrooms each, and servants quarters on the fourth. The living room and two bedrooms were restored to the period of Roosevelt's boyhood.

The drawing room with its high ceiling, magnificent mirrors, crystal chandelier, and blue satin hangings has the characteristicelegance of the period. To the Roosevelt children, this room was one of much splendor and open for general use only on Sunday evening or on rare occasions when there were parties. The front bedroom, in which Theodore Roosevelt was born in 1858, contains the original furniture and a portrait of his mother. Next to it is the nursery, and beyond that is the open porch which he used as a gymnasium.

Boundary:

Commencing at a point 200.3 ft. east of Broadway and:
 Running east along E. 20th St. for 50 feet; and
 Running south and parallel with Broadway for 92 feet; and
 Running west and parallel with E. 20th St. for 50 feet; and
 Running north and parallel with Broadway for 92 feet.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1858-1873, 1901-09

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☒ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☒ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | <u>History</u> |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On this site, where he was born and lived until he was 15 years old, is commemorated the boyhood of the many-sided man who became his country's 26th President. Here, in a 4-story brownstone standing in a now-lost residential setting, Theodore Roosevelt passed some of his most formative years. After bouts with childhood ailments, early passions for nature and books, and the shaping influences of family and travel, he grew into the man whose character, vigorous personality, and momentous deeds made him a dynamic force in American life from his earliest political years to the day of his death.

Poor health plagued Roosevelt almost from the start. One of his earliest recollections was of his father walking up and down the room at night, holding him in his arms. The Roosevelt children spent their summers in the New Jersey highlands or along the Hudson, but the change did little to help the youngster's condition. When he was 12 years old and his health was beginning to improve, his father spurred him along by installing a gymnasium on the porch of the nursery. The boy responded by doggedly working out on the apparatus, along with the rest of the neighborhood youngsters. Within a year he improved so much that asthma never again seriously interfered with his activities. If he missed out on the rough-and-tumble of boyhood, he found solace in books and natural history. He learned to read at an early age, and his keen intelligence and surging energy sought a range of outlets. Physically unable to attend school, he extended his uneven tutoring by wide reading. Heroic tales, science, and biography were his first tastes. By the age of 8, he was a budding naturalist, and by 14 had grasped the main tenets of Darwin. His curiosity left him little time for brooding.

When Theodore was 10, the Roosevelts went off to Europe for their first Grand Tour. Often homesick, ill, or exhausted, Theodore later remembered the trip with distaste. But for a boy so observant, the experience must have been something more than an ordeal in endurance. Four years later, in 1872-1873, the family returned to Europe. For Theodore, equipped now with better health, added years, and new resolve, this trip was more profitable.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Sagamore Hill and The Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace," National Park Service, 1961.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 44' 19"	73° 59' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		Zone 18		
SE	° ' "	° ' "		4510 - 000 N		
SW	° ' "	° ' "		585 - 340 E		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.11

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Ricardo Torres-Reyes, Historian</u>		DATE: <u>4/75</u>
BUSINESS ADDRESS: <u>North Atlantic Region</u>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>150 Causeway</u>		PHONE: <u>223-3778</u>
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Boston</u>	STATE <u>Mass.</u>	CODE <u>025</u>

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

State Liaison Officer Signature

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

☐ Local

Federal Representative Signature

Date

Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE New York	
COUNTY New York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON: Theodore Roosevelt National Historical Site			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 28 East 20th Street			
CITY OR TOWN: New York			
STATE: New York	CODE 36	COUNTY: New York	CODE 061
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1954			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: T. Roosevelt NHS, 28 E. 20th St. N.Y.C., N.Y.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View of front of building			
8 x 10			

