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Historic Furnishings Report
**THE ANSLEY WILCOX HOUSE
AND ITS FURNISHINGS**

THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL
National Historic Site / New York





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Historic Furnishings Report

**THE ANSLEY WILCOX HOUSE AND ITS
FURNISHINGS**

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site
Buffalo, New York

by
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Staff Curator

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Harpers Ferry Center
Harpers Ferry, WV
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I am grateful also to Susan Daniels, Patricia Rice, Sarah Simmons, and Elsie Robins of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society's library for producing so efficiently the materials I needed to see there. In spite of my very tight schedule, they made it possible for me to see everything relating to the Ansley Wilcox family and house.

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ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

At 3:31 in the afternoon of September 14, 1901, Theodore Roosevelt took the oath of office as president of the United States, a few hours after President McKinley's unexpected death from wounds suffered in an assassination attempt a week earlier. The simple ceremony took place in the library of 641 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York, home of Mr. and Mrs. Ansley Wilcox, friends of the new president. Sixty-five years later, this poignant moment in its history led to the house's preservation as a national historic site. Federally owned since 1969, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site is administered by the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation under a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service.

In the years since it became a public site, the Ansley Wilcox house has undergone partial restoration of the first floor, largely gutted in the 1930s to accommodate a restaurant. Three rooms—the library, the dining room, and a bedroom on the second floor—have also been furnished by the foundation to give visitors some sense of what the house looked like when it briefly served as President Roosevelt's headquarters.

This report is designed to bring together the available information on the house and its furnishings, its occupants, and Theodore Roosevelt's temporary residency, which catapulted the house into the national limelight. Much of this information is already recorded in existing room furnishing plans and other research or planning documents, but the site has long felt the need for an integrated study that interpreters and planners may more readily use. The report's furnishing recommendations, based on this information and some new data, reflect the National Park Service's commitment to the principle of "no restoration without documentation," to borrow a phrase from the political arena.

PRIOR PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Planning documents affecting the use and management of the structure are:

ID LCS: 032982, Management Category A, must be preserved. Added to the National Register November 2, 1966.

Historic Structures Report, Ansley Wilcox House NHS: Part II, November 1969.

Walter S. Dunn, Jr., "Furnishing Plan," Ansley Wilcox House, ca.1969-1970, typed draft.

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, "Interpretive Prospectus," 1970.

Walter S. Dunn, Jr., "Revised Furnishing Plan," Ansley Wilcox House, July 20, 1973.

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, notes on the dining room and bedroom for the use of tour guides, ca.1983. Notes on "Furnishings Plan, Morning Room," 1986.

William Seale, "Furnishings Plan, Morning Room, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, Ainsley [sic] Wilcox House, Buffalo, New York, 1986."

THE ANSLEY WILCOX HOUSE AND ITS FURNISHINGS

STRUCTURAL HISTORY

The front portion of the Ansley Wilcox house—now the parlors, hall, library and an open space upstairs formerly occupied by four bedrooms—was built in 1838 as officers' quarters, part of the military installation known as the Poinsett or Buffalo Barracks. In the early 1840s the occupants were a Captain Casey and Maj. Robert C. Wood, surgeon of the 2d Infantry Regiment, whose wife was a daughter of Gen. (later President) Zachary Taylor.¹

Vacated by the Army in 1845, the officers' quarters passed into private hands. The first owner was Joseph G. Masten (1847-1863). The next owner, Albert P. Laning (1863-1881), made substantial changes, moving the portico from the east end to the west or Delaware Avenue end, adding a service wing and full basement, and probably making interior improvements to make the former barracks more homelike. Frederick A. Bell bought the property in 1881 but sold it two years later to Dexter P. Rumsey, who immediately presented the house (but not the deed) to his daughter Mary Grace and her husband Ansley Wilcox, married just a week before on November 20, 1883. It remained their home until their deaths in the early 1930s.²

Although they never actually owned the house, the Wilcoxes almost totally revamped it in the 1890s with the help of Buffalo architect George Cary. Within the original building, two rooms on the south side of the first floor became a library, with a bay window and built-in bookshelves, while the two rooms across the hall became a double parlor. The Laning service wing came down, to be replaced by a larger wing comprising, on the first floor, a morning room, a dining room, and several service rooms; on the second floor, three

1 Mrs. Anna Hoxsie Cook to Ansley Wilcox, Buffalo, September 23, 1901 (Wilcox Collection, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, hereafter cited as BECHS). Mrs. Cook's early memories of the house were limited to a "tot's acquaintance with two tiny daughters of Dr. Wood's, who possessed the extraordinary nicknames of 'Puss' and 'Dump'; also swinging on their gate...from the high whitewashed fence on the Delaware St. side, staring with terror and awe over to the cemetery opposite, which was not alone the home of many dead, but the abiding place of a poor demented man, whom we children tremblingly invited forth and at once ran away from. 'Crazy Robinson'...frequently emerged, with his scanty clothing and his long white beard blown by the wind, from his doleful haunt, to obtain food and warmth from the officers and soldiers quarters at the garrison opposite."

2 William O. Shelgrin and Walter S. Dunn, Jr., *Part II Historic Structures Report, Ansley Wilcox House NHS* (Washington: Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, November 1969). See pp. 3-4.

new bedrooms and three bathrooms; and on the third floor, several rooms for servants and for storage. The result, at least on the first floor, was an eclectic blend of styles of which the Greek Revival facade gave no hint—late Victorian in the library, Tudor Gothic in the morning room, and Corinthian Colonial in the dining room. Sitting above and far back from busy Delaware Avenue, the Ansley Wilcox mansion, as it came to be known, was one of the city's notable homes, as befitted the social status of a prominent lawyer married to the daughter of one of Buffalo's wealthiest citizens.

After Mrs. Wilcox's death, the Rumsey estate leased the house in 1938 to Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Lawrence, owners of the Kathryn Lawrence Tea Room (later Restaurant). The Lawrences carried out substantial remodelling to create large dining rooms on the first and second floors and several smaller dining rooms on the first floor. Original ceilings and some wood trim survived, but the original character of the interior was lost. Outside, the facade remained intact, but the carriage house on the north side was torn down and a small two-floor addition was built at the northeast corner of the house. The Lawrences bought the property from the Rumsey estate in 1947.

After Mrs. Lawrence's death in 1959, the former Wilcox mansion stood empty and threatened with demolition until its purchase in 1964 by the Liberty National Bank and subsequent sale to the United States Government after passage of Public Law 89-708, November 2, 1966, authorizing establishment of Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site.³

Once the building's preservation was assured, the recently formed Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, in cooperation with the National Park Service, undertook a partial restoration of the house interior to its appearance at the time of Roosevelt's succession to the presidency. Since 1969 the principal first floor rooms and one second floor bedroom have been faithfully restored with the help of original architectural drawings produced by George Cary's staff in 1896 and a few early photographs. The rest of the house, which is devoted to adaptive uses, has been stabilized but not restored.⁴

3 Ibid., pp. 4-6. For a more detailed account of the building's owners and tenants, see appendix A: Walter Dunn's "Analysis of Historic Occupancy."

4 Restoration plans are set forth in the *Historic Structures Report*, previously cited, pp. 11-14.

THE OCCUPANTS

In 1901, 641 Delaware Avenue was home to Ansley Wilcox, a prominent Buffalo lawyer; his wife, Mary Grace Rumsey Wilcox; Cornelia (Nina) Rumsey Wilcox, Mr. Wilcox's daughter by his first wife; and Frances Wilcox, his daughter by his second wife. Occasional temporary residents included Wilcox's unmarried sister Mabel and their mother, Frances Louisa Ansley Wilcox. Several female servants lived in, as did Mrs. Wilcox's Canadian companion, Miss Farncomb, and her successor.

Ansley Wilcox

Born on January 27, 1856, in Summerville, Georgia, Ansley Wilcox was the son of Connecticut-born Daniel Hand Wilcox and his Georgia-bred wife, the former Frances Louisa Ansley. He spent his childhood in Georgia and Connecticut. After graduating from Yale College in 1874 and spending a year at Oxford University in England, he settled in Buffalo and entered on his legal career as a member of the firm of Crowley, Movius & Wilcox. He continued to practice law in Buffalo under various names (Movius & Wilcox, Wilcox & Miner, Wilcox & Bull, Wilcox & Van Allen) until his retirement in 1917. Best known as a corporation lawyer, Ansley Wilcox was also active in civil service reform and in efforts to preserve the area around Niagara Falls from adverse development. Wilcox was also professor of medical jurisprudence at the University of Buffalo from 1885 to 1906. Though he never sought political office, he promoted the idea of holding city and county elections in odd-numbered years and state and national elections in even-numbered years, was a founder of the National Civil Service Reform League, and served for more than 25 years as president of the Buffalo Civil Service Reform Association. He was also president of the Charity Organization Society of Buffalo and a founder of the Wanakah Club. As governor of New York (1899-1900), Theodore Roosevelt showed his confidence in Wilcox by appointing him to hear charges against the district attorney of New York County and to a commission to investigate alleged cruelty to prisoners at the Elmira Reformatory.⁵

Wilcox was married twice. His first wife, Cornelia Coburn Rumsey, was the older daughter of Dexter P. Rumsey, prominent Buffalo businessman and

⁵ Walter R. Dunn, Jr., "Furnishing Plan" for Library, Ansley Wilcox House, typed draft, ca. 1970, pp. 21-24.

landholder. They were married on January 17, 1878; just short of three years later, on December 22, 1880, Cornelia died at the age of 28, leaving a six-week-old daughter, christened Cornelia, but usually called Nina. On November 20, 1883, Wilcox took as his second wife his first wife's sister, Mary Grace Rumsey. A daughter, Frances, born in November 1884, was their only child. Although it lasted for 47 years, Ansley and Grace Wilcox's marriage was characterized by a coldness and lack of intimacy that friends of the two children remembered many years later.⁶ The marriage did survive, however, and in his last days, at least, Mr. Wilcox had two portraits of his wife [or wives?] in his bedroom. When asked by his nurse which he preferred, Mr. Wilcox is reported to have replied, "They were both pretty good girls."⁷

For all his prominence in public affairs, Ansley Wilcox's personality remains somewhat shadowy. Photographs reveal little beyond the fact that he was a handsome young man who aged with dignity but was not readily distinguishable from other business or professional men of his class and time. A childhood friend of his older daughter remembered that he was rather awkward with children, although he did play with Nina a little when he was dressing for dinner.⁸

The same writer also recalled Mr. Wilcox's "clumsy assumption of interest" in the children's amusements and the "kindly" pat on the shoulder he would bestow on little Nina when "the children's hour" was over. A friend of Wilcox's sister Mabel felt, however, that he enjoyed young people and encouraged them to visit the house.⁹

An independent Republican, Wilcox was one of the "Mugwumps" who supported the 1884 presidential candidacy of Grover Cleveland, Democratic mayor of Buffalo, over James G. Blaine. His friendships with Presidents Roosevelt and Taft, both of whom had visited him in Buffalo, were tested in the 1912 election; Wilcox gave his support to Taft in preference to Roosevelt's maverick "Bull Moose" candidacy. Another child of those days, recalling Mr.

6 Mabel Dodge Luhan, *Intimate Memories: Background* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1933, p. 72; Gilbertine Coakley (Mrs. Porter) Norton, interview, 1974, transcript in site files.

7 Violet Kendall, interview, 1982, transcript in site files. The context suggests that the portraits or photographs were of his two wives, who were sisters, rather than two of Grace Wilcox.

8 Luhan, *Intimate Memories*, p. 72.

9 *Ibid.*, p. 73; Mrs. Nathaniel K.B. Patch, interview, April 30, 1969, transcript in site files.

Wilcox seventy or so years later, felt that he was a man with great political power, who preferred to “stay in the background” and avoid publicity.¹⁰

“Friends thought he lacked a sense of humor and was rather stolid,” the same source said, “but he answered them by saying he did have a sense of humor—he just didn’t think they told funny jokes.” As an example, she cited the following story:

Mr. Wilcox had several fine riding horses and some polo ponies he kept in his stable behind the house. He rode in the park almost every morning...One morning he met Mr. George Sawyer in the park, while riding his horse. The next morning he again met Mr. Sawyer, but he was riding one of his polo ponies. Mr. Sawyer told him his horse had shrunk and he answered, “Oh, no, George. This is a different horse.”¹¹

His niece, Mary Wilcox Plimpton, also felt Uncle Ansley was rather humorless. “Someone would tell a simply delightful story,” she recalled, “and he would sit, listen and then say, ‘I see the point, but I don’t think it is funny.’”¹²

After Ansley Wilcox’s death on January 26, 1930, one day before his 74th birthday, obituaries in Buffalo and area newspapers made it clear that he was warmly remembered as a respected lawyer and businessman and as a leader in political reform and in many charitable and philanthropic endeavors. His will included cash bequests to both of his daughters, two grandchildren, a nephew, and his lawyer. To his wife he left a piece of property adjoining her summer residence, noting that this was his only bequest to her because she was “already well provided for,” presumably under her father’s estate. All his personal effects went to his younger daughter, Frances Cooke, with a request that she give a “generous portion” to his older daughter, Nina Bull.¹³

Grace Rumsey Wilcox

Born in Buffalo on December 16, 1854, Mary Grace Rumsey (known as Grace) was the younger of Dexter P. and Mary Coburn Rumsey’s two daughters. She attended schools in Buffalo and Farmington, Connecticut, and as a young woman pursued additional studies in Paris. Although the nature of these studies is not mentioned in the fragmentary records of her life,

10 Louise Michael, interview, n.d. (ca. 1969-70), transcript in site files.

11 Ibid.

12 Mary Wilcox Plimpton, interview, May 5, 1973, notes of Barbara Brandt in “Revised Furnishings Plan” for dining room.

13 Notes on will of Ansley Wilcox in Surrogates Court, Buffalo, New York, File No. 91531, compiled by Jean Sanders, Bonnie Cranna, and Marsha Rauch, 1976.

her lifelong interest in books, French and Italian antiques, and other aspects of “culture” may well have stemmed from her early exposure to European influences.

On November 20, 1883, Grace Rumsey married Ansley Wilcox, the promising young Buffalo lawyer who had previously married and lost her older sister Cornelia. She thus became the stepmother of her three-year-old niece, Nina; a year later she bore her own child, Frances. According to one, admittedly biased, witness, Grace Rumsey Wilcox was a doting mother and a neglectful, if not downright hateful, stepmother.¹⁴ The same source felt the marriage itself was a “loveless” one, while a friend of Frances intimated that Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox occupied the same house but did not “live together” for the 46 years between Frances’ birth and Mr. Wilcox’s death in 1930.¹⁵

The personality that emerges from the reminiscences of family and friends of her own and the younger generation is that of a provincial *grande dame* of great beauty and regal dignity; a society leader committed to cultural uplift but not a “mover and shaker”; a rather remote parent who showed tenderness only toward her own daughter and seemed “scary” to small children, including her stepdaughter.

Mrs. Wilcox appeared a cold woman to me [wrote Mabel Dodge Luhan, Nina’s childhood friend]. She always spoke in a slow, drawling voice that made your blood chill. She was quite beautiful, with a massive plait of blond-gold hair and dark-blue eyes. But her mouth turned down at the corners when it was closed, or falling open sometimes as she looked at us when we were near her, it seemed to have a strange expression on it—of cruelty and contempt.¹⁶

Chronic ill health, including arthritis that forced her into a wheelchair a good many years before her death, helped to reinforce the rather bleak impression Mrs. Wilcox made on the children’s friends in childhood and later. “Mrs. Wilcox was a scary figure to small children who played in the house,” recalled Louise Michael, “because she spent a lot of time resting in a dark room. Sometimes her voice would boom out of her room asking, ‘Who is there?’

14 Luhan, *Intimate Memories*, pp. 68-81. Mabel Dodge Luhan credited her friend Nina with saying that her stepmother won her father by devoting herself to his orphaned child [Nina], but that after the marriage “the warmth that Grace Rumsey had shown for the little thing died quite away. I think,” commented Mrs. Luhan, “she hated it as soon as she was married, and Nina has sometimes felt she has never stopped hating her.”

15 Ibid., p. 72; Louise Michael, interview, ca. 1969-70.

16 Luhan, *Intimate Memories*, p. 71.

when she heard the children playing.” Miss Michaels also remembered Frances’ mother as being “extremely kind and having a good sense of humor.”¹⁷

Mrs. Wilcox’s sense of humor was mentioned also by Sarah Coburn Hoff, who visited her Cousin Grace often in the early years of the century.

Mrs. Hoff laughingly recalled that on many occasions when it was tea time, Mrs. Wilcox’s small black and white dog named Miss Barnes joined the group. “When a cookie was put on the floor...Mrs. Wilcox would say ‘It’s charged’ and the dog wouldn’t touch it. But as soon as she said, ‘It’s paid for,’ the dog gobbled the cookie up.”¹⁸

To Gilbertine Coakley Norton, another childhood friend of Frances Wilcox, Mrs. Wilcox was a “beautiful, charming and generous woman” who might be termed “self indulgent.” She was not a churchgoer and, along with the rest of the family, became “very annoyed with Nina and her religious beliefs.” Mrs. Wilcox “adored her daughter Frances” and, in Mrs. Norton’s estimation, showed her stepdaughter Nina “every kindness.” She was “very devoted” to her father, Dexter P. Rumsey, who used to take her with him on his annual visits to St. Augustine, Florida. From Mr. Rumsey Grace Wilcox received a substantial annual allowance of which she is said to have given \$20,000 each year to her husband.¹⁹

Mrs. Wilcox’s interest in art and architecture manifested itself in the extensive remodelling of 641 Delaware Avenue between 1892 and 1897. She reportedly planned the library herself, and worked with architect George Cary on the rest of the alterations and additions.²⁰ Although Grace Wilcox, as her niece put it, “did not go in for interior decorating,” she was interested in antiques, and on her several visits to Europe, including one of several months’ duration in 1899, acquired an eclectic collection of French and Italian antiques, paintings, and *objets d’art* that graced the Buffalo house during her lifetime.²¹

Mrs. Wilcox is particularly remembered by elderly Buffalonians as the presiding spirit of “The Class” (pronounced with a broad a), a ladies’ reading circle

17 Louise Michael, interview, ca. 1969-70.

18 Betty Ott Plants, “Wilcox Mansion So Fondly Recalled,” *Buffalo Courier-Express*, July 23, 1971.

19 Gilbertine Coakley (Mrs. Porter) Norton, interview, 1974.

20 Ibid.; Mary Wilcox Plimpton, telephone interview, February 1986, transcript in site files.

21 Ibid. See also letters from Grace to Ansley Wilcox from Italy, Austria, France, and England during the summer and fall of 1899, in the Ansley Wilcox Collection, BECHS.

founded in the 1890s by Mrs. Edward O. Wolcott. Numbering among its carefully selected membership some of the most prominent women in Buffalo society and, after 1910, a few of its “younger element,” “The Class” for many years met every Monday from November to April in the library at 641 Delaware Avenue. One of the younger members recalled Mrs. Wilcox presiding “with gracious benignity from her wheelchair...a woman of great intellectual power and presence, a true ‘grande dame’ of the old school.” Mrs. Wilcox determined the program, nearly always historical, for each year; the other ladies each took a day to read selections from the approved authors. Mrs. Wilcox kept the members “strictly in line,” it was said, although she and the other older ladies were “very broad-minded, and listened to some of the more shocking passages from Greek and Roman literature with equanimity as long as they were written by authors of repute.”²²

Crippled by arthritis in her later years, Grace Rumsey Wilcox preserved her aura of graciousness and was remembered by a young friend sitting “by the fire in the library in a beautiful tea gown.”²³ She survived her husband by almost four years, dying on October 22, 1933, at age 78. In her will, she left the bulk of her estate to her daughter Frances and Frances’ husband Thomas F. Cooke, with the expressed wish that Frances should give to her half sister Nina and her children “a generous share” of her effects, “including silverware, linen, furniture, books, pictures and household ornaments.” The Wilcox mansion itself she could not bestow, since it reverted on her death to the estate of her father, Dexter P. Rumsey.²⁴

Cornelia (Nina) Rumsey Wilcox

Nina Wilcox was born on November 4, 1880, the daughter of Ansley Wilcox and his first wife, Cornelia Coburn Rumsey Wilcox. Her mother died when Nina was six weeks old and the baby’s care devolved on her mother’s younger sister, Mary Grace Rumsey, who became her stepmother three years later. The relationship between the two was not a good one apparently, especially after the birth of Frances, Grace’s own daughter, and Nina grew up resentful of her half sister and convinced that her aunt/stepmother hated her.

22 Edwine N. Mitchell, “The Wilcox Mansion and Mrs. Wilcox’ Class,” *Niagara Frontier*, [date?], pp. 6-8 (see appendix D).

23 Mrs. Porter Norton, “Memories of Wilcoxes,” notes from an interview, ca. 1969-70.

24 A copy of Mrs. Wilcox’s will and related inventory is included in this report as appendix B. The will is filed in the Surrogates Court, Buffalo, New York, File No. 104076.

Mrs. Wilcox's obvious love for her own child and indifference, at best, to her husband's older daughter, made a deep impression on Nina's friend, Mabel Ganson [Dodge Luhan], who wrote of it 30 or more years later:

Nina was a sad child. She never had a smile on her face. She was pale and somber, and she had thick, bright-red hair, bobbed and worn with a heavy bang down to her eyebrows. She was always grave....Mrs. Wilcox appeared a cold woman to me.... To live in the house with her was injurious for Nina. Nina used to stand with her stomach out, one foot rubbing the other while she picked at her dress, and watched her mother with Frances....It may be imagination, but as I remember them, Frances always dressed in pretty colors—pinks and blues—while Nina would have gingham of brown-and-white checks or dark blue and white. Their clothes were made alike in spite of the difference in age...but, oh, the difference between the blooming blond child and the gauche and sallow-faced girl dressed in checks!²⁵

Nina's father tried to make up somewhat for his wife's neglect of little Nina, according to Mabel:

But there was a good hour in the day for Nina. That was when her father came home at night. While he was dressing for dinner, Nina and I would go up to his room and he would joke with her in his awkward way and then he would "drop" us. Nina loved that. Her father would hold her high up in the air and drop her flat on her back on his bed till it creaked. She would come to life and queer excited gawps and shrieks would rise out of her and burst on the air.²⁶

At the time of Theodore Roosevelt's fateful visit in September 1901, Nina Wilcox was 20 years old and still living at 641 Delaware Avenue; three months later she married and left home.

It seems likely that the Miss Wilcox who was present at the swearing-in on September 14 was Nina rather than Frances, since it would have been correct at the time to refer to the older daughter as Miss Wilcox and the younger as Miss Frances Wilcox.²⁷

As she grew older, Nina Wilcox became very religious, rather to the annoyance of her stepmother and Frances, who were not churchgoers. At the age of 21 she married Henry Adsit Bull, a fellow parishioner of Trinity

25 Luhan, *Intimate Memories*, p. 71.

26 *Ibid.*, p. 72.

27 *Buffalo Courier*, September 15, 1901; *The Illustrated Buffalo Express*, September 15, 1901.

Church, Buffalo. The wedding on December 7, 1901, was followed by a reception at 641 Delaware Avenue. Henry and Nina Bull had two children: Henry, Jr., and Marian, but the marriage eventually ended in divorce. In later years, Nina Bull lived in New York City and pursued a career in psychology. She died on August 18, 1968.²⁸

Nina's portrait was painted by her uncle, Urquhart Wilcox, in 1907, several years after her marriage.²⁹

Frances Wilcox

The only child of Ansley and Grace Rumsey Wilcox, Frances was born on November 16, 1884. She appears to have been an unusually pretty child, described by a contemporary as "lovely, dainty, graceful—a plaything, a perfect little pet," everything, in short, that her older half sister Nina was not.

Frances was blond like her mother and with the same slow speech. One of her eyelids drooped a little over one eye and that made her look curious and full of sensuous delight....Her mother's slow drawl softened into tenderness when she spoke to her. The very way she said "Frahneces" was a caress.³⁰

At least three portraits of Frances Wilcox are extant. The earliest, painted in 1902 by Evelyn Rumsey Cary, is owned by the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation. A ca.1907 portrait by her uncle, Urquhart Wilcox, also belongs to the foundation. A still later portrait by Cecilia Beaux was given to the Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York in 1956 by Frances' husband, Thomas F. Cooke.³¹

At the time of President Roosevelt's swearing-in, Frances was only 16 years old. She was home at the time and invited her friend Gilbertine Coakley to come over for the occasion, although they were "eating goodies" in another room while the solemn ceremony was taking place in the library. Frances and Gilbertine a few years later made their debuts together at a cotillion held in the Wilcox mansion.³²

28 Mrs. Porter Norton, interviews; genealogical files, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural NHS.

29 "The Art of Urquhart Wilcox, 1874-1941," catalogue of an exhibit at Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, June 24-September 3, 1984. See p. 29. The portrait is owned by Nina Bull's daughter, Mrs. Hamilton Eames, London, England.

30 Luhan, *Intimate Memories*, p. 71.

31 Museum catalogue records, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural NHS; information courtesy Everson Museum of Art.

32 Mrs. Porter Norton, interview, 1974.

On December 14, 1909, Frances Wilcox married Thomas F. Cooke, a Bethlehem Steel Company chemist who became professor of chemistry at the University of Buffalo. At first, they made their home in Buffalo, spending summers in Europe. In later years they lived at Killam's Point, Branford, Connecticut, in a home filled with French and Italian furniture from 641 Delaware Avenue, inherited from her mother in 1933. The Cookes had no children of their own, but adopted a nephew of Mr. Cooke. Frances Wilcox Cooke died on March 23, 1955.³³

Frances Louisa Ansley (Mrs. Daniel H.) Wilcox

Although she was not a permanent member of the Ansley Wilcox household, Ansley's widowed mother did stay with them on occasion. She was there during the summer and perhaps the fall of 1899, for instance, while Grace was traveling in Europe.³⁴ In September 1901 she was in Buffalo and attended church with Ansley and Theodore Roosevelt on September 8, but there is no indication that she was then living with the Ansley Wilcoxes.³⁵

Mrs. Wilcox's Companion

For many years before her death, Mrs. Wilcox employed Miss Frances Farncomb, a Canadian from London, Ontario, as her companion. Miss Farncomb took care of the shopping, meal planning, and Mrs. Wilcox's correspondence; on occasion she served tea in the afternoon in Mrs. Wilcox's place. She retired before Mrs. Wilcox's death; her successor, Miss Lilian Elliott, was also from London, Ontario. A bequest of \$10,000 to "my friend, Frances Farncomb," testifies to the important place she filled in Grace Wilcox's life; Miss Elliott also received a bequest of \$1,000.³⁶

No evidence indicates Miss Farncomb's presence in the Wilcox household at the time of the Roosevelt visits in 1901.

33 Ibid.; genealogy files, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural NHS.

34 Grace R. Wilcox to Ansley Wilcox, from Innsbruck, Austria, July 14, 1899, suggesting that if Ansley's mother planned to go south for the winter, "say in November or December, she might just as well stay on" at 641 Delaware Avenue (copy in site files).

35 *Buffalo Express*, September 9, 1901. The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* of the same date identified the lady who accompanied the gentlemen to church as "Mrs. Rumsey, the mother of his [Roosevelt's] host's wife," but this seems unlikely, since Dexter Rumsey's current wife, his third, was not Grace Rumsey's mother.

36 Mrs. Porter Norton, interview, 1974; will of Grace Rumsey Wilcox, p. 3 (appendix B).

House Servants

A house the size of 641 Delaware Avenue and the Rumsey/Wilcox style of living required the supporting services of a sizeable staff. Exactly how many servants there were in 1901 is not known, but Gilbertine Coakley Norton's memories of her friend Frances's home are probably close to the mark.

There were many servants in the Wilcox household [Mrs. Norton told an interviewer about 1970]. Mrs. Norton remembered two cooks, one for Mr. Wilcox and one for the rest of the family. This was necessary because Mr. Wilcox lived a different schedule from his wife and daughters. He would have his breakfast at noon and his dinner at 9 p.m. Besides the cooks there were...a kitchen maid, a full-time serving woman, two upstairs maids, laundress, gardener, and a girl to serve meals, but no butler...The coachman was a man named Talbot...Later, when they had automobiles, he stayed on as Mrs. Wilcox's chauffeur. Mr. Wilcox had his own car and chauffeur.³⁷

When Nina and Frances were little, they had a nurse named Norah, remembered by Nina's friend Mabel as "that awful nurse of theirs."³⁸

Among the servants who worked for the Wilcoxes several have contributed information about the house, as well as some articles of furnishing given to them or bought at the 1934 auction. John H. Guldner, for instance, was a newly hired stable boy at the time of Roosevelt's 1901 visits and later served as Mr. Wilcox's chauffeur; in 1934 he was still on the job, serving as caretaker of the empty mansion after Mrs. Wilcox's death; after another 36 years two pieces from the house came back from his widow's estate. Eileen O'Keefe, who had come as dining room maid in 1930, identified other servants from that period, including her sister Kate (cook's helper), another Kate (upstairs maid), Emma Fisher (upstairs girl), and Miss Elliott, Mrs. Wilcox's companion after Miss Farncomb's retirement.³⁹

Little is known concerning living arrangements of the Wilcox servants, except that the female servants slept on the third floor of the house, the coachman in the carriage house. The laundress and gardener probably did not live on the premises.

37 Mrs. Porter Norton, "Memories of Wilcoxes." Mrs. Norton also recalled that the maids were always in uniform, including bib aprons.

38 Luhan, *Intimate Memories*, p. 73.

39 *Buffalo Times*, undated 1934 clipping in THRI files; THRI museum catalogue records 70-295 and 70-296; Eileen O'Keefe, interview, 1983.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT AT THE WILCOX MANSION, SEPTEMBER 1901

Since its connection with Theodore Roosevelt's unexpected elevation to the presidency justified designation of the Ansley Wilcox residence as a national historic site, the events marking that connection are reviewed here.

Late in the afternoon of September 6, 1901, President William McKinley was shot by anarchist Leon Czolgosz while receiving well-wishers at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo. Although McKinley's recovery from the attempted assassination was thought, at first, to be assured, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt hastened to Buffalo to visit the wounded president.

Arriving about noon on Saturday, September 7th, Roosevelt headed for the Iroquois Hotel but ran into an old Buffalo friend, Ansley Wilcox. Their brief conversation, according to Wilcox, "resulted in his coming to stay at my house and stopping there until the following Tuesday. The house was then partly dismantled; the family and most of the household were in the country, but he was offered a quiet place to sleep and eat, and accepted it."⁴⁰

After resting briefly and lunching at the house of Carleton Sprague "while his apartments with Mr. Ansley Wilcox were being prepared," Roosevelt "spent a few hours in disposing of an accumulation of ten days mail" at the Wilcox residence, where his secretary William Loeb, Jr., had established a temporary office for the vice president. He took dinner at the Spragues', then returned to the Wilcox house for the night.⁴¹

The following day, Sunday, September 8, Roosevelt attended morning service at the First Presbyterian Church, accompanied by Ansley Wilcox and his mother. He lunched at the Wilcox house with his host and two other local men, Seymour Sawyer and a son of John G. Milburn, at whose house the wounded president was apparently recovering. In the evening Roosevelt had dinner again at the Spragues', where Secretary of War Elihu Root was staying. Returning to the Wilcox house, the vice president reportedly paced "up and down the floor of the smoking-room until shortly before midnight," follow-

40 See appendix F: Ansley Wilcox, "Theodore Roosevelt, President," an account of Roosevelt's accession to the presidency, written by Wilcox in October 1902 and revised by President Roosevelt (typed copy, THRI files). Roosevelt and Wilcox had known each other for a decade or more, having worked together in New York for election and civil service reform.

41 *Buffalo Courier*, September 8, 1901.

ing the bulletins sent from the Milburn house and persistently refusing to be interviewed “at any length” regarding the president’s condition.⁴²

On Monday, September 9, the *Times Mirror* of Albany reported that Roosevelt was “taking it easy to-day at the residence of Ansley Wilcox.” Actually, he spent the morning with his secretary answering mail and sending telegrams. A telegraph instrument had been installed in the Wilcox house for his use and William Jeffers, chief telegrapher of the United States Senate, was acting as the vice president’s official telegrapher. Just after noon, Roosevelt walked up Delaware Avenue to the Milburn house to visit the convalescent president. On his return, he lunched at the Wilcox house with Secretary Root, Doctors McBirney and Dixon, who were attending the president, Secretary Loeb, and Mr. Wilcox. When asked by a reporter if there had been any ladies at the luncheon, the vice president’s secretary replied: “No, there was none. You see, Mr. Wilcox’s family is away, and we are sort of keeping bachelor’s hall here.” In the afternoon Roosevelt took another walk, as far as the zoo, and in the evening he again dined at the Spragues’.⁴³

Tuesday, September 10th, was Roosevelt’s last day in Buffalo. That morning, according to a reporter for the *Brooklyn Eagle*, he “stood behind the telegraph operator at the Wilcox house...and read with eagerness the despatch from the Milburn mansion telling of the President’s splendid condition.” After a brief visit with President McKinley, he returned to the Wilcox house for lunch at 1:30 with Ansley Wilcox and his two daughters, “who came back to the city during the day.” During the afternoon Roosevelt spent some time on correspondence and paid the president a second visit. He resisted efforts to persuade him to visit the exposition grounds, however, saying:

I do not believe, even though I am assured of the President’s convalescence, that it would be entirely proper for me to take part in any of the festivities. I have studiously refrained from going out or being entertained during my visit, and I will continue that policy until I leave. I came here absolutely as a matter of duty both to the President and to the people and not for pleasure.⁴⁴

Believing that the president was well on his way to full recovery, the vice president felt his presence in Buffalo was no longer necessary. He accordingly left by train at 9:50 p.m., September 10, 1901, to join his family for a brief vacation in the Adirondacks.

42 *Buffalo Express*, September 9, 1901. See also note 35, above.

43 *Times Mirror*, Albany, September 9, 1901; *Buffalo Courier*, September 10, 1901. Jeffers, the telegrapher, happened to be in Buffalo on a summer job as desk clerk in a local hotel.

44 *Brooklyn Eagle*, September 10, 1901.

Looking back on the circumstances surrounding Roosevelt's first visit, Ansley Wilcox wrote:

Those were terribly anxious days, but on the whole not gloomy. From the first moment of his arrival, and the favorable answers which were made to questions about the condition of the President—especially after his first hasty call on the family and physicians of the wounded man, at Mr. Milburn's house, the Vice-president seemed possessed with an abiding faith that the wound would not be fatal....So, when, on Tuesday, the fourth day after the shooting, everything seemed to be going well, and even the Secretary of War, Mr. Root, and other members of the cabinet, and Dr. Burney, who had come here from New York, felt justified in leaving, it was thought best that the Vice-president also should go away in order to impress the public with that confidence in the outcome which everyone felt.⁴⁵

Roosevelt had left with his friend Wilcox his itinerary and addresses for reaching him in case of need. The need, quite unanticipated, arose within two days.

In the middle of the night between Thursday and Friday [recalled Wilcox], I was aroused by a messenger asking me to send instantly for the Vice-president, as the President had suddenly become worse and was in great danger. Then began a vigorous effort to annihilate time and space. A telephone message to Albany put me, within two hours, in direct communication with Mr. Loeb, the Vice-president's secretary.⁴⁶

Loeb took it from there, sending a telegram to the Tahawus Club, where the Roosevelts were staying, and starting off himself by special train "as early in the morning as one could start." Loeb's message reached Roosevelt on the trail as he was descending Mt. Marcy. Traveling on foot to the camp, by wagon at night to the nearest railway station, and finally by train, Roosevelt reached Buffalo with Loeb about 1:30 p.m., Saturday, September 14, 1901, only to learn that President McKinley had died early that morning.

When Theodore Roosevelt, now president of the United States, left the train at the Terrace Station in Buffalo, he was met by Ansley Wilcox and George L. Williams and taken in Williams' private carriage directly to the Wilcox house, where he had stayed as vice president earlier in the week.

No definite plans had been made for swearing him in, and it had not even been settled where this should be done....So he was asked to go to my house to get lunch and immediately at arriving and being equipped with borrowed clothes, more appropriate than his traveling suit, he insisted on starting for

45 Wilcox, "Theodore Roosevelt, President."

46 Ibid.

Mr. Milburn's house, to make a call of sympathy and respect on the family of the dead President.⁴⁷

Although Roosevelt did not have an opportunity to speak with Mrs. McKinley or any of the family, he spent about 15 minutes in the Milburn house conferring with members of the late president's cabinet, of whom Secretary Root was the spokesman.

The Inauguration

What followed was described most fully in the next day's *Buffalo Courier*:

Up to the time of his arrival at the Milburn residence... Vice-President Roosevelt knew nothing concerning the plans for his immediate inauguration....For reasons of weight affecting the affairs of the National Government, the Cabinet urged that the Vice-President be immediately sworn into the office of President. They had arranged for an immediate ceremony, Secretary Root told him and hoped that he would meet their wishes.

DECIDE ON WILCOX HOME

While the Vice-President was yet discussing the matter with Secretary Root and members of the Cabinet, Judge Hazel arrived at the Milburn residence. He was just about to go up the steps as Senator Chauncey M. Depew was coming out....Following Judge Hazel was George P. Keating, Clerk of the United States District Court. He had a couple of handbags with him which contained documentary matters to be used in administering the oath to the President. Their going to the Milburn residence proved conclusively that it was at first intended to there administer the oath to the Vice-President. It was hurriedly agreed between the Vice-President and the members of the Cabinet that it would probably be better to have the ceremonies take place away from the house in which lay the remains of the dead President. The Wilcox house was at once agreed upon.

AUTOMOBILES FOLLOW

Returning to his carriage, accompanied by Mr. Wilcox, the Vice-President was driven back to the Wilcox residence with the same police escort. The horses were sent down the avenue at a brisk gait and the party was closely followed by numerous automobiles and carriages containing newspaper correspondents, artists, etc.

When the Vice-President returned to the Wilcox residence hundreds of people were gathered along the opposite side of the street....None but a newspaper man was allowed on the east side of the avenue from North Street to a point some distance below the Wilcox house.

47 Ibid. For the complete text of Wilcox's account of the circumstances attending Roosevelt's accession to the presidency, see Appendix F.

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT

Shortly after the Vice-President arrived at the Wilcox house three carriages drove up. They had come from the Milburn house and in them were Cabinet officers and others as follows:

First carriage—Postmaster-General Smith, Secretary of War Root, Judge John R. Hazel.

Second carriage—Secretary of the Navy John D. Long, Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson.

Third carriage—George B. Cortelyou, who had been private secretary to the late President McKinley, the Hon. John G. Milburn, George P. Keating, clerk of the United States District Court, and Col. Bingham, in charge of public buildings and grounds at Washington, D.C. They immediately entered the house.

In a few minutes time Vice-President Roosevelt's private secretary came out of the house and said that it had been decided to admit only those newspaper men who were representatives of the big news gathering associations, the Associated Press, the Publishers' Press and the Laflin Syndicate. Three men representing these bodies left the newspaper group and entered the house. A party of women entered.

NEWSPAPER MEN ADMITTED

Shortly after the assembling of the inauguration party in the library of the Wilcox residence, Vice-President Roosevelt noticed that there was sufficient room to permit all of the newspaper men being called in to witness his taking the oath and instructed Mr. Wilcox to go out and invite all of the other men to come inside.

Mr. Wilcox came out to the newspaper group and notified them of the Vice-President's invitation, and, in response, a few less than thirty newspaper men returned to the house with him. They found the party grouped in the library in the southwest corner of the house and as soon as the newspaper men were accommodated, the ceremony which was to make a President of the United States began.

NAMES OF ALL PRESENT

Standing in a brightly lighted alcove was Judge Hazel. Immediately in front of him stood Vice-President Roosevelt. To the left were formed Secretary of War Root, Postmaster-General Smith, Senator Chauncey M. Depew, Dr. M.D. Mann, who was one of the late President McKinley's physicians; George Urban, Jr., Dr. Charles G. Stockton, who was also one of the late President's physicians. To the right were Secretary of the Navy John D. Long, Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, the Hon., John G. Milburn, George B. Cortelyou, Dr. Charles Cary, George L. Williams, Judge Haight of the Court of Appeals, John N. Scatcherd, Carleton Sprague, George P. Sawyer, Robert Scatcherd, George P. Keating, Col. Bingham, George Foster of the United States Secret Service; William Jeffers, chief telegrapher of the United States Senate, William Loeb, Jr., the Vice-President's private secretary; Mrs. Ansley Wilcox, Miss Wilcox, Mrs. John G. Milburn, Mrs. Carleton Sprague, Mrs. M.D. Mann, Mrs. Charles Cary, and the newspaper men, among whom were Walter Wellman, Chicago Record-Herald; Harry S. Brown,

R.H. Fuller, New York Herald; Louis Siebold, E.C. Buchaynam, New York World; M.A. Teague, Baltimore American; F.E. Sullivan, Chicago Chronicle; Arthur Greaves, New York Times; M.E. Hennessy, Boston Globe; Charles T. White, New York Tribune; Eddie Graham, Associated Press; C.W. Rogers, Corning Democrat; George E. Graham, Associated Press; John T. Ryan, New York Sun; C.A. Coolidge, Boston Journal; John J. Breen, Hal Avery, Buffalo Enquirer; Joseph Ford, Buffalo Commercial; T.J. Sullivan, Buffalo Evening News; Horace Hunt, Buffalo Times; James W. Reilly, Buffalo Courier.⁴⁸

QUESTION OF FORM

An earnest conversation of about five minutes duration occurred between Col. Roosevelt and Secretary Root. There was a question between them as to whether the former should first sign the oath and then proceed to have it verbally administered to him, or whether it would be better form to have it verbally administered before the signing was done. The latter form was agreed upon and Secretary Root, stepping back into the Cabinet group, the Vice-President resumed his position close beside Judge Hazel. There was a moment of extreme quietness. It was now 3:31 o'clock. Secretary Root, advancing a step forward, began to speak. His voice was low and not clearly audible. Evidently his emotions were deeply touched. Tears were in his eyes.

ROOT BREAKS DOWN

"Mr. Vice-President, I" commenced Secretary Root, but his voice broke and for fully a minute he could not utter another word. His Cabinet confreres were all affected. Tears came into their eyes. It was a touching scene at this moment and about every head was bowed as there welled up in the hearts of these devoted men the memory of the beloved man whose life had been offered as a sacrifice on the altar of his country. Tears trickled down the cheeks of Secretary Root. The Vice-President's eyes were moist and he clutched nervously at the lapel of his frock coat.

Throwing back his head as though seized with a determination to go on with his address to the future Executive of the nation, Secretary Root continued in a voice stronger and more distinct and audible than before:

CONTINUES ADDRESS

"I have been requested by all the members of the Cabinet of the late President who are present in the City of Buffalo, all except two, to request that for

48 Notably absent was McKinley's old friend and political adviser, Senator Mark Hanna of Ohio, who is reputed to have exclaimed, on the president's death, "Now that damned cowboy is going to be President!" At least one newspaper (*Buffalo Courier*, September 15, 1901) noted that Senator Hanna was not present at the oath-taking, but did arrive at the Wilcox house about 4:00 p.m. and conferred privately for some time with President Roosevelt. In a letter written on September 16, just a few hours after the president had left for Washington, Wilcox explained to Roosevelt that he had not been aware that Senators Hanna and Fairbanks "were at Milburn's house when the Cabinet started down for the administration of the oath, and that they left about the same time and drove by my house to the Club, apparently not being asked to stop there." In his reply, the president indicated that the omission had not created a problem.

reasons of weight affecting the administration of the Government you should proceed to take the constitutional [oath of] office of President of the United States.”

Taking a step toward Secretary Root the Vice-President said, in a voice that wavered at first, but grew stronger with each succeeding word:

WILL CONTINUE MCKINLEY'S POLICY

“I shall take the oath at once in accord with the request of you members of the Cabinet, and in this hour of our deep and terrible national bereavement I wish to state that it shall be my aim to continue absolutely unbroken the policy of President McKinley for the peace, the prosperity and the honor of our beloved country.”

Now the Vice-President stepped back toward Judge Hazel, and the latter, taking up a sheet of parchment on which was written the constitutional oath of office, said:

“Theodore Roosevelt, hold up your right hand.”

“I do,” he said, as he raised his hand.

Judge Hazel read the oath and Col. Roosevelt repeated it after him: “I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

PROFOUND SILENCE FOLLOWS

“And thus I swear,” ended the now President, his right hand dropping to his side, his chin falling to his breast, while for a minute the silence remained unbroken....The silence was broken by Judge Hazel. He said: “Mr. President, please attach your signature,” and he handed him a pen with which the President affixed his name to the oath on parchment. “Theodore Roosevelt,” he wrote at the bottom of the document, in a strong hand.

DETAINS CABINET MEMBERS

As he turned from signing the oath of office the President said: “I would ask that the gentlemen of the Cabinet stay a few moments. I would like to talk with them alone.” This was a signal for the others who were present to take their leave of the President, and as they filed out, President Roosevelt stood in the hallway, near the outer door, receiving their hearty congratulations, and greeting them with a shake of the hand while he thanked each one individually for their kindly expressions.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ *Buffalo Courier*, September 15, 1901. In *The Illustrated Buffalo Express* and the *Buffalo News*, September 15, the lists of people attending the swearing-in were a little shorter, but included George S. Metcalf, Dr. Roswell Park, and Lieutenant Colonel Chapin, not mentioned by the *Courier*. The *Express* also mentioned, without naming, “the secret-service detectives, and the household attendants.” The *New York World* provided its readers a diagram showing who stood where (fig. 3). For another newspaper account of the events of September 14, see appendix H.

While President Roosevelt conferred with the cabinet, whose continuance in office he requested "at least for the present," those who had witnessed the ceremony in the library "gathered in other rooms" and enjoyed light refreshments provided by Mrs. Wilcox.

After the cabinet session in the library ended, the president walked to the door with the cabinet members. He asked Secretary Root to "tarry with him," greeted a few personal friends, then put on his silk hat (borrowed from John Scatcherd) and invited Root to take a little walk, saying, "It will do us both good." Ansley Wilcox asked the president if he might join them, but Roosevelt is reported to have replied, "No, I am going to take a short walk with Secretary Root and will return again shortly." The two men walked up Delaware Avenue, accompanied at a discreet distance by secret service men and policemen despite Roosevelt's expressed desire not to "establish the precedent of going about guarded." Saying good-bye to Root near the Milburn house, the president returned alone to the Wilcox house about 6 o'clock and greeted a few relatives and friends who had called in his absence, including William I. Buchanan, director-general of the Pan-American Exposition, and Col. Russel Harrison.⁵⁰

Strangely, the local newspaper accounts of President Roosevelt's first day in office neglected to mention his first official act, the issuance of a proclamation announcing President McKinley's death and appointing the day of his burial a day of mourning and prayer throughout the country. According to Ansley Wilcox, after the oath-taking he was asked to produce the volume of *Messages and Papers of the Presidents* containing President Arthur's proclamation of the death of Garfield (Volume VIII, p. 34). This was considered during the cabinet meeting in the library. When Roosevelt returned from his "little walk" with Secretary Root, he retired to the Wilcox morning room to prepare a draft, which he later discussed with Governor Odell, Congressman Littauer, Republican State Committeeman William C. Warren, and Ansley Wilcox. The proclamation was issued that evening, over a Washington dateline.⁵¹

Another circumstance connected with the oath-taking that escaped mention in the press was that President Roosevelt did not place his hand on a Bible as

50 *The Illustrated Buffalo Express*, September 15, 1901; *Buffalo Courier*, September 15, 1901.

51 *Ohio Beacon* (Ashtabula), September 16, 1901; Wilcox, "Theodore Roosevelt, President"; undated clipping, "Scrapbook Bares Stirring Recital"; and "By Accident Theodore Roosevelt Chose Place Where He Took Oath of Nation's Highest Office," clipped from *Buffalo Times*, December 18, 1927 (THRI files).

he swore to uphold the Constitution. Judge Hazel had apparently purchased a Bible specifically for this purpose, as soon as he learned that he was to administer the oath, but was persuaded not to take it along, since it was assumed that the host would provide his own Bible. As it turned out, this was a mistake. As a participant recalled:

When the party had gathered together in Mr. Wilcox's library and Secretary Root had requested the Vice-President to take the oath, Secretary Knox asked: "Where is the Bible?" Immediately there was a search for the Scriptures, which evidently had not been searched very diligently in the Wilcox Mansion. No Bible could be found. The Attorney General then said: "You must swear him with uplifted hand."⁵²

Motives of delicacy, perhaps, kept the press from publicizing the fact that the Wilcox library did not contain a Bible. Ironically, a bible inscribed: "Ansley Wilcox, New Haven, Conn. March 1st 69" is among the books in the restored Wilcox library. One cannot help wondering where it was in September 1901.

Although there were press photographers on hand, no photographs were taken of the actual swearing-in of the president. According to one report, Roosevelt had given permission for a Buffalo photographer to record the ceremony, but the arrangement had been spoiled by an unauthorized photographer who knocked over his equipment by accident, causing such a commotion that the president decided against any photographs.⁵³ Sketches of the scene that appeared in some newspapers were done after the fact and are not very reliable. Shortly after the ceremony and cabinet meeting, photographers were allowed to take pictures in the empty library (figs. 2-5); these are discussed in the section of this report presenting the evidence on the library.

The president dined with the Wilcoxes rather late in the evening of his eventful day. "The President, while affable," one reporter observed, "showed some effects of the long journey and the day's strain."⁵⁴

On Sunday morning, September 15, the president had breakfast with the Wilcoxes and the Rev. Dr. S.S. Mitchell, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Shortly before 11 o'clock President Roosevelt, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, drove in a covered barouche to the Milburn house to attend the

52 George P. Keating to Louis L. Babcock, Buffalo, December 18, 1933 (Babcock Collection, BECHS). In 1901 Keating was clerk of the United States District Court in Buffalo, under Judge Hazel. Keating's account is given in full in appendix G.

53 Reported in the *Buffalo Courier*, December 25, 1901 (appendix I).

54 *Buffalo Courier*, September 15, 1901.

funeral service for the late president. On returning to the Wilcox residence, he spent a "very quiet Sunday," although Secretary Loeb and his assistants kept busy opening and classifying at least 600 telegrams and letters. At lunch the Wilcoxes entertained a party including Secretary Root, Attorney General Knox, Governor Odell, Congressman Littauer, and William C. Warren, Republican State committeeman, of Buffalo; the men afterwards "spent an hour or more in conversation in Mr. Wilcox's library...a continuation of their talk of the evening before, and...altogether of a general nature." In the evening the president dined at the Wilcoxes; the guests included Navy Secretary Long, Interior Secretary Hitchcock, Agriculture Secretary Wilson, Postmaster General Smith, Senator Kean of New Jersey and John G. Milburn. After dinner the gentlemen discussed arrangements for the late president's funeral in Washington.⁵⁵

Monday, September 16, President Roosevelt's last day in Buffalo, began with a 6:45 call, followed at 7:30 by breakfast and "informal chat" with his host and William Loeb, the president's private secretary. Shortly after 8:00 Secretary Root and Carleton Sprague called and accompanied the president and Ansley Wilcox to the waiting carriages that took them to the funeral train. In his coach, Roosevelt talked with Secretary Long and Mr. Wilcox, who left the train as it started to move, carrying the new President and the casket of his predecessor to the nation's capital.⁵⁶

Busy as he was when he got to Washington, President Roosevelt lost no time in writing to thank the Wilcoxes for their hospitality. On September 17th he wrote, as follows:

My dear Mr. Wilcox:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 16th. The matter about the two Senators is all right.⁵⁷

Now let me thank you, and through you, Mrs. Wilcox, to whom I shall also write at the earliest opportunity. You did me a real and great favor by having me at your home; but, my dear sir, you did me the greatest favor by being yourself and treating me as you did. I shall always have memories of your

55 *Buffalo Express*, September 17, 1901; *Washington Post*, September 18, 1901.

56 *Buffalo Express* and *Utica Herald*, September 18, 1901.

57 See fn. 48, above.

house which will be dear to me. I regretted only one thing and that is that Mrs. Roosevelt could not have been with me.

Faithfully yours,
Theodore Roosevelt⁵⁸

Roosevelt's letter to Mrs. Wilcox, dated September 30, 1901, was more impersonal:

My dear Mrs. Wilcox:

I must just send you a line to say how I appreciate your hospitality.

You were very kind to me, and I shall never forget it.

With heartiest well-wishes, believe me,

Faithfully yours,
Theodore Roosevelt⁵⁹

Ansley Wilcox's own feelings found expression in a letter to President Theodore Roosevelt, September 26, 1901:

The memory of your visit in Buffalo will always be a source of great pleasure to me and to my family, and so far as one could have feelings of pleasure at that time, when we were all torn by anxiety and excitement, every moment that I spent in your society in the intimate relations of a small household, gave me a new sense of gratification that I am permitted to enjoy the friendship of so true a man as I deem you to be. I am not much given to laudation, and have difficulty expressing my feelings properly; but I have a deep and abiding faith not only that the country is safe in your hands, but that you are entering upon a wise and conservative, as well as a brilliant and highly successful administration.

Wilcox mentioned in his letter that he was sending Mrs. Roosevelt a number of clippings and two copies of *The Illustrated Buffalo Express* of Sunday, September 22, 1901, which contained, he said, "some very good pictures of our house and the room where you were sworn in, and other interesting pictures, as well as a little history of the house on page 4. These the children may like to cut up, if they keep scrap books." He also promised to send, if he could find it, "the clipping which I had cut out as you requested, certifying that you developed and exhibited 'a good singing voice' at the services at the First Presbyterian Church on the Sunday morning previous, but," he added, "I seem at this moment to have mislaid this most important of all papers."⁶⁰

58 Wilcox Collection, BECHS (copy, THRI).

59 Ibid.

60 Ansley Wilcox to The President, Buffalo, September 26, 1901 (copy, THRI; original in Theodore Roosevelt Papers, Library of Congress).

Even the younger people who had not attended the presidential oath-taking sensed that history had been made in the Wilcox library. Seventy-two years later, Mrs. Helen Stimson Burrows recalled how it affected her circle of friends:

After it was all over, one day Mr. Wilcox's daughter Frances took me, with several other young friends, into the room where the oath of office had been taken and we all felt very important to have had what we considered an historical experience. Frances...inherited the pen with which the oath was signed and treasured it all her life.⁶¹

VISIT OF PRESIDENT TAFT

On April 30, 1910, Ansley Wilcox played host for the second time to a sitting president, when William Howard Taft came to Buffalo with his Secretary of State, Philander C. Knox, to attend a dinner of the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce.

Learning of Taft's impending visit, Wilcox wrote on April 14 to urge the president to take a night train from Washington and spend most of Saturday, April 30, in Buffalo, "as free from engagements during the day as you may wish and permitted to spend your time in resting and enjoying yourself, or in working on other matters." For this Wilcox offered his house for the duration of the president's stay.

If you choose to come to my house, the entire house will be at your service as none of the family but myself will be there. You can have breakfast in peace alone, and then can rest or work during the forenoon. You can bring your own secretary and stenographer there of course, or if you need stenographers, I can provide them here in Buffalo, of the best quality. You could go down to the Chamber of Commerce or to the Buffalo Club for an informal reception in the middle of the day for an hour or two if you choose, or even this could be cut out if you did not approve of it. In the afternoon you could rest or could have a horseback ride or could go in an automobile to the Country Club and play nine or eighteen holes of golf...⁶²

After receipt of two telegrams from the White House, indicating that the president would arrive the morning of the 30th and would be glad to make the Wilcox house his headquarters for the day, Wilcox also invited Secretary Knox to come for breakfast and the day, if convenient. "I may say," he added,

61 Anne McI. Matthews, "The Day McKinley Was Shot," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, July 1, 1973.

62 Ansley Wilcox to President Taft, Buffalo, April 14, 1910 (copy in Wilcox Collection, BECHS).

“that I am inviting no one from Buffalo to meet The President at breakfast because I am assuming that he wants to be quiet at least at the beginning of the day, and shall ask no one but yourself, unless he indicates a wish to the contrary.”⁶³

The presidential visit came off as planned, with Taft spending at least part of the day at 641 Delaware Avenue. One of the “pleasantest features” of the day for Wilcox was the chance to chat with the president’s military aide, Maj. Archie Butt. Wilcox and Butt both came from Augusta, Georgia, and their families were acquainted. Short as the visit was, at least two photographs were taken, one on the front porch with the president and his party plus five Buffalonians, the other in the morning room with Taft, Butt, and Wilcox (fig. 11). President Taft had at his disposal a suite of rooms on the second floor, probably on the north side at the front of the house (rooms 201-203).⁶⁴

63 Ansley Wilcox to Philander C. Knox, Buffalo, April 25, 1910 (copy in Wilcox Collection, BECHS).

64 Ansley Wilcox to George I. Haight, Buffalo, March 16, 1928 (copy, Wilcox Collection, BECHS); “Caretaker of Mansion....,” clipping from unidentified Buffalo newspaper, December 22, 1935.

EVIDENCE OF ROOM USE AND FURNISHINGS

Library

The southwest room on the first floor of the Wilcox house was always known as the library after Grace Wilcox, in her first major home remodelling project, converted two small parlors into one large room lined with bookshelves. This was done before April 1885, when Ansley Wilcox reported to his absent wife that he had had "the new window put in by the bookcase in the library," referring probably to the narrow window in the southeast corner. The bay window in the south wall apparently dates from 1892; it was designed by George Cary, the young Buffalo architect, who four years later designed and supervised construction of the new wing of the house.⁶⁵

Architecturally, the room was typically late Victorian in character, dominated by dark-stained, galleried bookcases on the north, south, and east walls. From the earlier period, only the two floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Delaware Avenue survived; the fireplace toward the east end of the south wall was original to the room but had received a facelift, including a surround of green tiles and a galleried and paneled overmantel of the same style as the bookcases. Two doors opened on the hall; both were kept closed.⁶⁶

"The library was Mrs. Wilcox's room," according to Mrs. Norton. The "library was Grace's room," echoed Mrs. Ansley Wilcox III, her niece by marriage, adding that tea was served every day at four o'clock in the library. In later years, when Mrs. Wilcox was crippled with arthritis, "it was an open house, many ladies would stop in without a formal invitation," and their hostess would receive them sitting or reclining on a sofa, "in a beautiful tea gown," while her companion, Miss Farncomb, officiated at the tea table.⁶⁷

The library was also the meeting place of "The Class," the reading circle over which Mrs. Wilcox presided for many years. Composed of about 20 "distinguished older women" and "an attractive group of young marrieds," "The Class" met every Monday from November to April to hear and discuss readings on serious subjects by recognized authors. For a charming reminiscence

65 Ansley Wilcox to Grace R. Wilcox, Buffalo, April 2, 1885 (Wilcox Collection, BECHS); full scale drawing of "Bay window res. Mrs. Wilcox 7-19-92," (George Cary Collection, BECHS). Only the lower portion of this window conforms to Cary's drawing.

66 See figs. 2-7; Norton, "Memories of Wilcoxes."

67 Norton, interview and "Memories of Wilcoxes"; Mr. and Mrs. Ansley Wilcox III, interview, August 14, 1974, copy in site files.

of "The Wilcox Mansion and Mrs. Wilcox' Class," by Edwine Noye Mitchell, who joined the select group in 1910, see appendix D.

Furnishings

The journalists' descriptions of the room in which Theodore Roosevelt took the oath of office on September 14, 1901, are not very reliable guides to what the room actually looked like. Typical is the following, from the *Buffalo Courier* of September 15th:

The library is...just off the porch on which one of its windows opens. The room has one other window, a big bow with little panes of cathedral glass in colonial design. This is on the southerly side. On the walls of the room at either side of the alcove window are long rows of books, reaching from floor to ceiling. The room is finished in dark green and is richly hung. A few palms were used in yesterday's decorations.

This account was wrong on several points. There were two windows opening on the porch; the bay windows did not have stained glass panes, although the small window in the southeast corner (not mentioned) did have a few; and photographs taken just after the ceremony show no palms. While it is not impossible that palms were brought in and taken away immediately after, it is unlikely, given the short time between the decision to use the Wilcox house and the actual swearing-in (less than half an hour) and the lack of room for large plants in the window-seated bay.

Another local newspaper mentioned the room's "high ceiling of dark oak" (it was actually plastered and papered) and a third more poetically described the room as "ceiled high in dark oak," with "a bay window prettily set in palms and adorned with stained glass."⁶⁸ Two out-of-town papers were less specific but closer to the truth:

The place selected for the ceremony was the library of Mr. Wilcox's house, a rather small room, but picturesque, the heavy oak trimmings and the massive bookcases giving it somewhat the appearance of a legal den. A pretty bay window with stained glass and heavy hangings formed a background, and against this the President took his position.⁶⁹

"All professed pictures of the scene" in the library, in Ansley Wilcox's words, "are shams, except as they may have been sketched from memory."⁷⁰ The sketch illustrated on the cover of this report, for instance, includes the palms,

68 *Buffalo News* and *The Illustrated Buffalo Express*, September 15, 1901.

69 *Washington Post* and *St. Paul Press*, September 15, 1901.

70 Wilcox, "Theodore Roosevelt, President."

the stained glass, and curtains very different from those in contemporary photographs.

Clearly, the most reliable sources of information on how the Wilcox library looked at the historic moment are the photographs taken the same day, shortly after the room was clear of people. There are at least five of these:

1. Close-up of southeast corner with part of bay, published in *Harper's Weekly*, September 21, 1901 (not illustrated);
2. Almost identical to the above, but taken from slightly to the left (fig. 2);
3. Probably from the same negative as #2, but showing more of east and south walls and doctored to show positions occupied by those present at the ceremony; published in *New York World*, September 16, 1901 (fig. 3);
4. View showing more of south wall, including the fireplace, published in *Leslie's Weekly*, September 28, 1901 (fig. 4);
5. Close-up of southeast corner from a somewhat lower angle, unpublished (fig. 5).

From the arrangement of books, pictures, ornaments, and furniture it is clear that all of these photographs were taken at the same time, on the day of the oath-taking when the press had relatively free access to the house. Another photograph of the east end of the room (fig. 6), though ascribed to the same year, differs in almost all furnishing details and can be used as a guide for a 1901 restoration only for the northeast corner of the room, not visible in the earlier photographs. Still later photographs taken in 1910 (THRI W7.2, not illustrated), 1921 (fig. 7), and 1934 (fig. 8) help document later additions and the migration of pieces present in 1901.

What follows is a summary of the evidence on furnishings in the library in 1901 and in later years. The Furnishing Plan section of this report contains a detailed list, with documentation, of furnishings recommended for the library to re-create as closely as possible its appearance in September 1901.

Lighting

The room was lit in 1901 by a pair of four-light gasoliers, brass with etched glass shades. Although the electrical specifications for the 1896 work refer to "center lights," in the new part of the house, the library chandeliers probably continued to be gas-operated for some years more, since the pull chain visible under one of the ceiling lights in the 1921 photograph is absent in the 1901

photographs. Additional light was provided by gas and kerosene wall and table lamps in 1901. Twenty years later these had been replaced with electric lamps and sconces.

North wall

At the turn of the century, the north wall was lined with bookcases, interrupted only by the two doors to the hallway, which were normally closed and covered with portieres of a dark, geometrically patterned material, hanging from brass rings on a dark wood rod (figs. 6 and 7). In the northeast corner, on a slender marble pedestal, stood a dark bronze or terra cotta bust (fig. 6), possibly the "head of a woman" Grace Wilcox sent home from Italy in 1899 "with some other terra cotta things."⁷¹ Several large volumes lay flat on the tier of projecting shelves in the corner, and the upper part of the bookcase in the corner appears to have had glass doors. To the left of the easterly door sat an armchair or sofa covered with a small oriental carpet (fig. 6). There is no evidence of other furnishings toward the west end of the north wall, which was not photographed before 1921.

By 1921 (fig. 7) a two-light electric bracket lamp had been placed on the bookcase divider between the hall doors. Furniture in front of the bookcases included an overstuffed sofa with two pillows and a lace or crocheted antimacassar; a pedestal-base card table holding a potted plant and a small animal figure; a bridge lamp; a couple of pictures leaning against the bookcases; and, in the corner by the window, the leather armchair that was next to the bay window in 1901.

When the room was restored in 1970, the center portion of the north wall was not reconstructed, allowing the substitution of a non-reflective glass partition through which visitors could more readily look into the restored library.

West wall

For 1901 the sole evidence is an exterior photograph taken on September 14th that shows in the two library windows half-drawn roller shades of a light tone with a horizontal band of decoration close to the fringed ends (fig. 18). Another exterior photograph (THRI W 1.2), taken later in the same year, shows similar shades in the front parlor window. No curtains are visible in either photograph.

71 Grace Wilcox to Ansley Wilcox, June 7, 1899, Florence (Wilcox Collection, BECHS).

In 1921 (fig. 7) the windows appear to have had plain shades; lace curtains; and heavy, dark drapes with tiebacks. Between the windows hung a woman's portrait in right profile; below it was a bookcase and, in front of that, a drop-leaf (?) table with white cover, table lamp, bowl, and two small pictures. In front of the left window sat another overstuffed sofa with pillow and antimacassar. In front of the sofa stood the little curved-leg table that was in the center of the room in 1901 (figs. 2-5), now (1921) covered with a white cloth.

East wall

In September 1901 (figs. 2-6) the entire east wall was covered with bookcases full of books, mostly sets in leather or half-leather bindings. Although the room housed perhaps as many as 1500 volumes, there is relatively little information on the books in the Wilcoxes' library or on their reading habits. Mrs. Ethel Chapin Patch, a friend of Ansley's sister Mabel, stated that "Mrs. Wilcox was a gentlewoman of culture and refinement...with literary and artistic tastes" whose home was "filled with treasures of art and literature."⁷² Mrs. Porter Norton and Mrs. Edwine Mitchell, both members of Mrs. Wilcox's "Class," recalled that "many of the books were popular at the time," and photographs of the library between 1901 and 1934 suggest that there were many sets of standard authors, bound in leather or half-leather. The only title mentioned in contemporary accounts was Richardson's *Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1789-1897*, published in 1899 in 10 volumes, one volume of which President Roosevelt used when he drafted his proclamation on President McKinley's death. About 65 volumes from the Wilcox library have been returned to the house since it became a national historic site; they are listed in appendix J.⁷³

In front of the bookcases on the east wall in September 1901 were (from left to right) a small armchair; a larger, leather-covered armchair with a floral, fringed anti-macassar; a small, upholstered sofa or settee, partly covered with an oriental carpet; a small armchair with spindled back and sides, the slip seat and back cushion covered with a floral fabric (THRI 70-295); and a round parlor table with heavily carved pedestal in the southeast corner. On

72 Ethel Chapin Patch, "Recollections of Ethel Chapin Patch, 1935 and 1938," typed copy, 1982 (THRI), p. 11. The sale of property of Ansley Wilcox and others, at 641 Delaware Avenue, May 22-24, 1935, included "a complete library of 1500 books," which probably was the Wilcox library, still essentially intact in 1934 (fig. 8).

73 Mrs. Edwine Mitchell and Mrs. Porter Norton, interview, 1969, copy in site files. In the interview one of the ladies suggested that the Hoyt family of Buffalo might have some of the books.

the table were a dark cover with a light-colored fringe; a bronze figural gas lamp (THRI 70-280) with pierced metal or decorated china shade; a vase with cut flowers; a framed photograph of Dexter P. Rumsey, Mrs. Wilcox's father, standing on a pile of magazines; a globular vase; some books; and a few other, unidentifiable, small objects.

By the time the next photograph (fig. 6) was taken, possibly later the same year, the grouping of furniture in front of the east bookcases had been changed for better effect. The round table was centered in the space, flanked by a velvet-covered armchair and the big leather chair that had been in front of the bay window (fig. 5). The table had another flowered cover and a different lamp (THRI 70-163), a spiral-stemmed glass kerosene lamp with a shade of fringed cloth. Dexter Rumsey's photograph remained, but most of the other objects had been replaced by books. There was something behind the big chair, perhaps another chair to take advantage of the light from the side window.

The east end of the room was not photographed in 1921. By 1934, after Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox's death, the only furnishings visible (fig. 8) were a heavily-carved library table, probably one of the pieces brought back from Italy, and a high-backed, leather-covered chair.

South wall

The September 1901 photographs (figs. 2-5) reveal all of the south wall except for its western end, which the 1921 photograph (fig. 7) shows was occupied by a built-in bookcase matching the one at the east end. Next to the west bookcase was the fireplace (fig. 4) with its tiled facing, paneled and gal-leried overmantel, iron grate (filled with wood), brass fender, and brass fireplace tools and stand (to the left). No wood carrier is visible because of the angle of the photograph; the 1921 photograph shows one of indeterminate material to the right of the hearth. On the mantel shelf, in 1901, were (from left to right) a small clock in a brass-bound glass case (THRI 70-296), on top of which sat a small framed picture, not identifiable; two small framed pictures leaning against the mantel; a pair of china (?) candlesticks with white candles; an 8-volume set of books in gilt-decorated leather bindings; a framed print (?) of a woman, possibly in the style of Charles Dana Gibson, leaning on top of the books; a large painted china vase; and three books in plain bindings. Within the square center panel above the fireplace was mounted a framed copy (painting or print) of Botticelli's "Pallas and the Centaur." In the panel to the right hung, one above the other, two round framed miniatures of unidentifiable subjects. At either end of the gallery top sat a pair of matching tall vases, which appear to have been of metal with dark glass tops or inserts.

Immediately to the left of the fireplace was an 18th century style lowboy, probably of mahogany, with brass drawer pulls. On this there was a white cover and a tall vase with cut flowers. Underneath sat a square wicker wastebasket.

Within the bay was a built-in window seat partially covered with an oriental carpet; the back and seat appear to have been covered with a tufted, leaf-figured fabric. A large pillow at one end had a floral-patterned cover. The plain white window shades were drawn. The curtains, of a plain, possibly glazed, fairly dark fabric, hung straight in two ranks; the photographs show those in the lower half open, the upper rank closed. Across the outer face of the window framing was a wooden curtain rod with brass rings, presumably used with portieres in winter. In September 1901 the paneled window casing on the east side of the bay was nearly hidden behind three framed prints and right next to them stood a tall pedestal holding a potted plant (possibly a begonia, definitely not a palm).

When the next photograph (fig. 6) was taken, the lowboy by the fireplace was gone, replaced with a kidney-shaped card table, uncovered, with several objects on it different from those visible in the earlier photographs. There was a different pillow on the window seat, a different pedestal holding a fern, only one of the prints in the bay, and a different set of curtains in an Art Nouveau pattern. This photograph also shows two chairs not previously visible: a small upholstered chair with curved arms and a child's windsor rocking chair (THRI 69-207). One or two small oriental rugs appear in these early photographs of the east end of the room; presumably there were similar rugs at the other end; much of the polished floor was exposed.

In 1921 (fig. 7) everything along the south wall had changed, with the exception of the window seat. There were lace curtains in the bay windows, electric bracket lamps on either side of the bay, different pictures on and over the mantel and leaning against the side of the bay, a low revolving(?) bookcase/side table beside a Martha Washington chair to the left of the bay, a spool-turned side table, and an upholstered armchair to the right. The floor was covered with an almost room-size plain carpet. While the east end of the room is not visible, the general impression is that the entire room had gradually become less Victorian in the 20 years since 1901, without being totally redone by an interior decorator.

This interpretation is confirmed by the comments of Mary Wilcox Plimpton, a niece of Ansley and Grace Wilcox, who spent "a great deal of time" in her uncle's home "and often actually lived in the house" between 1907 and 1920. In answer to inquiries concerning the library, she responded as follows:

...to answer your question about the tiles around the fireplace: I have no memory of them whatsoever! (Cheer up, I'll do better with the curtains which I believe were a soft tan that shaded in with the oak woodwork).

They really belong in parentheses as they were unnoticeable. The chair and sofa coverings were in soft shades of green, brown or beige—mostly worn velvet, except for two large upholstered chairs tucked in at each end of a big table underneath the bookshelves that filled the end of the room on Franklin Street [east] side. These two homely, clumsy, but comfy chairs were covered in leather—one in black, one in deep red. The lampshades were beige and I wager they had silk fringe—the fashion of those days. As for the rugs, I think they were orientals but am not sure.

Over the mantel hung a painting of trees in autumn colors which was a keynote to the coloring of the whole room. Brass andirons, fender, tongs, etc.—plus bits of brass—bowls, boxes, lamps (maybe) were in evidence.

There was no period style to the room; the decor was pleasant, comfortable and liveable with a special charm of its own. It wasn't even Victorian....

Refurnishing the library, Mrs. Plimpton thought, would be easy because of the photographs available, and she recommended talking to Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Norton, both members of "The Class" of which she herself had been the "youngest and timidest" member. Since "The Class" met weekly, she said, "there was plenty of time and opportunity to study the furnishings while someone read aloud."⁷⁴

Of this room, at about the same post-1910 period, Edwine Noyes Mitchell later recalled with affection:

The interior of the Wilcox Mansion was in the best tradition of the 1890s. It was a house of dark woodwork and dark carved furniture, upholstered in velvet and brocade that was carefully protected with handsome lace antimacassars. Many bookcases overflowing with books, portraits, tapestries, and small objets d'art from all over the world attested to the background and taste of the family. The sun streamed through the high southern windows above the wide window seat onto the many comfortable chairs and sofas occupied by the elegant ladies. The open fire crackled briskly in the green-tiled fireplace. Mrs. Wilcox presided with gracious benignity from her wheelchair beside it....

The reader generally arrived on her annual day in a state of nervous "twitters".... She was always ensconced in the seat of honor, a large antimacassared chair to the left of the southern window under a good light. Before her was a small table to hold her books and a glass of ice water.

It was a charming picture: the beautiful room, the gracious presence of Mrs. Wilcox in her wheelchair before the fire, the gentle ladies with their wide

74 Mary Wilcox Plimpton to Mrs. Donaldson, Boston, ca. 1969 (THRI files).

skirts spread about them—no immodest knees showing in those days—state-ly Miss Love, with her magnificent white head indomitably erect; beside her Mrs. Rumsey with her tiny feet supported on a footstool; the whole bathed in the shifting glow of the late sun, vying with the flickering fire and the colored segments of light through the Tiffany glass lamp shade.⁷⁵

Mrs. Mitchell later told an interviewer that the fireplace tile was green, the window seat dark blue, and the hassock brown or dark red. In a subsequent joint interview with Mrs. Porter Norton, also a 1910 recruit to “The Class,” the ladies recalled lots of antimacassars of “white linen, filet lace, Venetian”; olive draperies; green velvet on the window seat; a sofa against one of the closed hall doors; a tinge of olive in the green tiles; a “big rug” at the west end of the room; “many Spanish frames”; “goldish” embossed wallpaper along the frieze; a brown rocking chair; “some blue in the room”; and an Old Master type picture over the mantel.⁷⁶

Mrs. Ethel Chapin Patch, a friend of Ansley Wilcox’s sister Mabel and thus a contemporary of Grace Wilcox, remembered the library as being “rather dull and simply furnished.”

She thought [recorded her 1969 interviewer] the drapes might have been tan. They blended with the woodwork. She described the wood as dark oak. She said the curtains were muslin. When she looked at the photo of the Delaware end of the room she remembered that there were two entrances with doors that matched those leading into the dining room. Between the doors were open shelves with vases, etc. on them. The top shelf was about waist high and there was just an open space above.⁷⁷

In 1971 Mrs. Sarah Coburn Hoff, a much younger cousin of Grace Wilcox, donated to the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Foundation a small oval mahogany tea table in the Hepplewhite style around which she and her mother and other members of “The Class” had tea with Mrs. Wilcox. Mrs. Hoff was quoted as saying that these teas were held in “the parlor,” confirming Mrs. Mitchell’s recollection that, after the reading, the ladies “repaired to

75 Mitchell, “The Wilcox Mansion and Mrs. Wilcox’ Class” (see appendix D).

76 Mrs. Edwine N. Mitchell, interview, March 5, 1969, copy in site files; Mrs. Edwine Mitchell and Mrs. Porter Norton, joint interview, 1969.

77 Mrs. Nathaniel K.B. Patch, interview, April 30, 1969. The 1921 photograph shows books on the shelves between the doors.

the adjoining room" for tea. On other days, however, tea was served in the library at four o'clock. It is not clear whether Mrs. Hoff's tea table, given to her by Grace Wilcox, was in the parlor or in the library, although its small size suggests that it may have been in the latter room where tea was served to fewer people.⁷⁸

Two other family members, also much younger than Grace Wilcox, remembered the library of later years as having a brown rug and brown velvet curtains, a gilt-framed pier mirror between the west windows, blue Delft tiles with white flowers around the fireplace, blue vases, and frosted glass (not colored) shades on the chandeliers.⁷⁹

The inventory that was filed with Grace Rumsey Wilcox's will in 1933 listed items in the Delaware Avenue house by room. Library furnishings appeared on pages 2 and 3 (see appendix B of this report). Though fairly complete, the list only occasionally mentions materials (oak, leather, mahogany, etc.) and is not much help in identifying objects in the earlier photographs.

Unfortunately, the 1935 auction catalogue (appendix E) is not much more helpful in identifying what was in the Wilcox library; it was not very specific about the location of items and it included pieces from other estates. The only pieces described as "library furniture" cannot be surely associated with the Wilcoxes, nor can most of the paintings, although "The Little Princess," measuring 61" x 55", must have been the one over the sofa in the 1921 parlor photographs.⁸⁰ According to a Buffalo newspaper report, one item in the house that was not to be sold was "the table used by Judge John R. Hazel to hold the Bible used in swearing in President Roosevelt." Although no Bible was used on that occasion, the table probably was the one President Roosevelt and Judge Hazel used when they put their signatures to the official oath. What happened to this table is not recorded.⁸¹

78 Betty Ott Plants, "Wilcox Mansion So Fondly Recalled," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, July 23, 1971; Sarah Coburn Hoff, interview, March 19, 1969, transcript in site files; Mrs. Ansley Wilcox III, interview, August 14, 1974.

79 Mrs. William J. Donovan (born Ruth Rumsey) and Mrs. Dexter P. Rumsey, Jr., interview, December 4, 1970, transcript in site files. Mrs. Donovan, born in 1891, was a daughter of Dexter P. Rumsey, Sr., by his third wife, making her a half-sister of Grace Wilcox, though 37 years her junior.

80 O. Rundle Gilbert, "Unrestricted Auction Sale, Estates of Ansley Wilcox, Truman G. Avery and others," May 22-24, 1935, p. 16.

81 "Wilcox Mansion to go under hammer today," in *Buffalo Courier-Express*, May 23, 1935.

When the library was gutted in 1938 to create the large dining room for the Kathryn Lawrence Tea Room, the original bookcases were thrown out, except for one section incorporated in a kitchen storage closet. Another section, purchased by Mrs. Patch and later donated to the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, was reused in the restored library and served as a pattern for reconstructing the rest of the bookshelves.⁸² Mrs. Lawrence's husband, Oliver M. Lawrence, had the original green and yellow fireplace tiles made into paperweights, which were given away to friends; none of these has turned up.⁸³

The original ceiling fixtures from the library came down in 1938 but were not thrown out. When the restaurant closed in 1959, the old fixtures went on the auction block. Mr. Kevin Hickey of Buffalo bought them, minus the glass shades, sold separately; ten years later he donated the fixtures to the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Foundation for use in the restored library.⁸⁴

Two well documented pieces from the 1901 library—a chair and a mantel clock (THRI 70-295 and 296)—came as a gift from the estate of Martha N. Guldner who, with her husband John H. Guldner, had been an employee of the Wilcoxes and had received the pieces as gifts from Mrs. Wilcox.⁸⁵

Three other objects that can with assurance be associated with the library are a bronze figural lamp (THRI 70-280, gift of the Allentown Association); a glass kerosene lamp (THRI 70-163, donated by Margaret E. Scheu); and a child's windsor rocking chair (THRI 69-207, gift of Mrs. Allan Gushue). There are also in the site collection about 65 books that belonged to the Wilcoxes and presumably were shelved in the library.⁸⁶

Summary

There is excellent evidence on the furnishings of the eastern half of the library at the time of Theodore Roosevelt's swearing-in as president in September 1901. Information on the west end of the room at that time is lacking, although it would be not unreasonable to assume that the new objects (card table, three chairs, and fern on a pedestal) in figure 6, a photograph taken not long after, had been moved from the other end of the room. At

82 Information from Mrs. Barbara Brandt, Superintendent, THRI.

83 Oliver M. Lawrence, interview, March 19, 1969, transcript in site files.

84 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Hickey, interview, May 16, 1969, transcript in site files.

85 R. Hughs to Walter Dunn, intra-office memorandum, March 20, 1970 (THRI files).

86 THRI museum catalogue files; see appendix J for a list of the books.

least seven pieces of original furniture and almost 40 pre-1901 books are currently available for display in the room.

Morning Room

Identified as the “living room” on George Cary’s 1896 plan for the proposed first floor of the Ansley Wilcox residence’s new wing (fig. 1), this room on the south side was known to the family as the “morning room.” It was a spacious room, about 22 feet long by 12 feet wide, with a wide fireplace on the east wall, a large triple-window on the south wall flanked by facing windows on the east and west. A double door opened from the hall on the north side; another door, on the east wall, provided access to the dining room. The room was Tudor Gothic in inspiration, with dark oak wainscoting half way up the walls and white plaster above (possibly covered with a plain paper or “grasscloth”), a white ceiling decorated with bold strapwork, and a large fireplace framed with a shallow Gothic arch and massive carved oak mantel. Partially gutted when the building was turned into a restaurant, the morning room has since 1970 been restored to its original appearance.⁸⁷

Although the term “morning room” commonly referred to an upstairs sitting room used in the early part of the day by the ladies of a household, in the Wilcox house the morning room was as definitely Mr. Wilcox’s room as the library was his wife’s. It served a dual purpose, as a private office or study and, in modern terms, a den. Wilcox had a desk there, for transacting personal business and correspondence, and he probably received callers in this room, where a contemporary remembered he “often held meetings,” probably related to his various philanthropic activities. When the Wilcoxes entertained, Ansley and his gentlemen guests could move, after dinner, directly from the dining room into the morning room to smoke and talk.⁸⁸

Others in the household did use the morning room at times. Mrs. Mary Wilcox Plimpton, Ansley’s niece, remembered studying at her uncle’s desk when

87 Shelgrin and Dunn, Part II Historic Structure Report, Ansley Wilcox House N.H.S. (1969), pp. 8, 12, figure 23, and plan, “Alterations to Residence of Ansley Wilcox.”

88 Patch, “Recollections,” p. 10. The room was referred to as the “smoking-room” in the *Buffalo Express*, September 10, 1901, when Vice-President Roosevelt was using it as his office. The terms sitting room, living room, and study were used occasionally by outsiders, although the family regularly called it the morning room.

she stayed there.⁸⁹ Marian Bull Eames, Mr. Wilcox's granddaughter, recalled: "As children visiting my grandparents we never used the morning room except to walk through it to get to the dining room from the front room...."⁹⁰

On special occasions the morning room was pressed into service as a public reception area. One such occasion was the presidential oath-taking on September 14, 1901. According to Gilbertine Coakley Norton, who was "eating goodies" in the kitchen while the ceremony was going on in the library, there was a "small reception" afterwards in the morning room, during which Theodore Roosevelt patted her on the head.⁹¹ When Ansley Wilcox died, almost 30 years later, his body was "laid out" in the same room.⁹²

The room has special associations with two presidents. During both his stays in the Wilcox house in September 1901, Theodore Roosevelt used the morning room ("smoking-room," according to one journalist) as his temporary office, where he and his private secretary, William Loeb, dealt with the many telegrams and letters that poured in before and after the death of President McKinley. A telegraph instrument was set up, probably in a nearby room, manned by the chief telegrapher of the United States Senate, William Jeffers. Two days after the oath-taking, a reporter noted that Loeb and his assistants were busy opening and classifying "at least 600 telegrams and letters...piled up on the oak table in the sitting room of the house."⁹³

It was also in the morning room that President Roosevelt drafted his first official paper on September 14, 1901. On returning alone from his "little walk" with Secretary Root after the oath-taking and cabinet meeting, the president retired to "our morning room, which he used as an office," in Ansley Wilcox's words, and there drafted the manuscript of the proclamation announcing President McKinley's death and appointing Thursday, September 19th, a day of national mourning.

An hour or so later [as Wilcox recalled] he read this in the morning room to a small company that happened to drop in—Governor Odell, Congressman Lucius N. Littauer, William C. Warren, and myself, and asked us to criticise

89 Mary Wilcox Plimpton, telephone interview, October 31, 1982, transcript in site files.

90 Marian Bull Eames to ?, January 1985 (THRI files, Morning Room).

91 Mrs. Porter Norton, interview, 1974.

92 Mary Wilcox Plimpton, telephone interview, February 1986.

93 *Oswego Times*, September 17, 1901.

it. His stenographer, Mr. Loeb, had made a clean copy, and in this the changes which were then agreed upon were inserted. Unfortunately this second copy was thrown away. Governor Odell and Warren made few suggestions, Littauer and I made a good many, several of which were adopted, as will appear by the copies of the proclamation as printed.

The paper was sent up to Mr. Root, Secretary of War, and Mr. Cortelyou, Secretary to the President, at Milburn's house, and was issued that same evening and dated from Washington.⁹⁴

The original draft, scribbled by the president in pencil on four sheets of yellow paper, "was rescued from a scrap basket by some thoughtful soul and presented to Mr. Wilcox" who preserved it, with the following note: "Sat. Sept. 14, 1901. This paper was drafted by President Roosevelt in the morning room at our house." The draft eventually came into the possession of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society as part of the Ansley Wilcox papers.⁹⁵

When President Taft spent a few hours in the Wilcox house on April 30, 1910, he was photographed in the morning room with his aide, Maj. Archie Butt, and their host, possibly indicating that the room served briefly as his "office."

Furnishings

George Cary's 1896 floor plan of the "living room" (fig. 1) indicates with a cross (+) the proposed locations of a center light and a pair of sconces flanking the bay window. The electrical specifications suggest that only the overhead light was electrified.⁹⁶

The scanty evidence on furnishings of the morning room in 1901 is limited to incidental references in contemporary newspapers and later comments by participants in the events of that September. The reminiscences of Mrs. Mary Wilcox Plimpton, a niece, cover the years after about 1907, when she was 10 years old. The earliest photograph (fig. 11) dates from 1910 and shows little. The only good photograph (fig. 13), showing the south half of

94 Ansley Wilcox, "Manuscript of President Roosevelt's First Official Paper," undated typescript (copy, THRI files).

95 Ibid.; "By Accident Theodore Roosevelt Chose Place Where He Took Oath of Nation's Highest Office, *Buffalo Times*, December 18, 1927. The draft is filed separately from the scrapbook in which Ansley Wilcox formerly kept it.

96 First Floor Plan, Alterations to Residence of Ansley Wilcox, in George Cary Papers, BECHS; Appendix C, p. 203.

the room, dates from 1921. The last photograph, taken in 1934, shows part of the east wall, mainly the fireplace (fig. 14).

1901 In the contemporary accounts of President Roosevelt's stay, the only piece of furniture mentioned in relation to the morning room was an "oak table" on which were piled "at least 600 telegrams and letters."⁹⁷

Ansley Wilcox's account of the drafting of President Roosevelt's proclamation, while mentioning no furniture, implies the presence of a chair and desk or table at which the President sat, as well as a table, chair, and typewriter used by his secretary to type a clean copy of the draft. A later source speaks of the original draft being "rescued from a scrap basket." Volume VIII of Richardson's *Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents* was consulted by Roosevelt while drafting his proclamation because it contained, on page 34, the text of President Arthur's proclamation of President Garfield's death in 1881.⁹⁸

Photographs of the exterior of 641 Delaware Avenue taken in 1901 show that there were plain, light-colored roller shades in the west window and bay window of the morning room. One also shows a potted plant in the west window.⁹⁹

When Mabel Ganson visited the Wilcox girls in the 1880s and 1890s, the "sitting-room" contained "two big chairs" and a clock on the "chimneypiece" and was across the hall from the nursery. This was probably before the morning room was added in 1896, but may be indicative of what was there after 1896, especially since two big chairs and a mantel clock are prominent in the 1921 photograph of the morning room.¹⁰⁰

Ethel Chapin Patch, a friend of Ansley Wilcox's younger sister Mabel, remembered the morning room as "a large bright room," decorated in "rich blue and gold."¹⁰¹

97 *Oswego Times*, September 17, 1901.

98 *Oswego Times*, September 17, 1901; Wilcox, "Manuscript of President Roosevelt's First Official Paper," undated (copy, THRI).

99 THRI photo files.

100 Luhan, *Intimate Memories*, pp. 72-73.

101 Patch, "Recollections." Her description better fits the dining room.

Family tradition holds that Ansley Wilcox's ca.1800 slant-front bureau desk (THRI 69-212), with replaced brass hardware, was used by President Roosevelt during his 1901 stay. Mary Wilcox Plimpton remembered seeing her Uncle Ansley (after 1907) "sitting in the corner at his desk, a window at his side." The desk was definitely in the room by 1919, when it figured in Urquhart Wilcox's portrait of his brother Ansley (fig. 12).¹⁰²

1910. The photograph taken in the morning room during President Taft's 1910 visit (fig. 11) shows the portly President seated in what appears to be a relatively low-backed chair with a carved and curved crest rail. Behind him can be seen the fireplace. Over the mantel hangs an oval-framed portrait of a young woman and to the right of it, on the mantel, is a 4-light candleabrum. The portrait was of Ansley Wilcox's younger daughter, Frances, painted in 1902 by Evelyn Rumsey Cary; it is now in the site collection (THRI 77.23.5) in the original frame.

ca.1907-1920. Mary Wilcox, daughter of Ansley's brother, Daniel Hand Wilcox, Jr., was a frequent visitor at 641 Delaware Avenue from 1907, when she was 10 years old, until about 1920. Her memories of this room are recorded in two 1986 interviews.

Mrs. Plimpton told Mrs. Barbara Brandt in a February 1986 telephone conversation that there was a "small, round table" in the center of the room; this was covered with a lace tablecloth and held "neat piles of magazines." Beside this table there was a "standing lamp." There were two "everyday American arm chairs" flanking the fireplace; next to each stood a small table with an ashtray. An "old desk" on one wall was "used to keep fireplace wood." On the north wall stood a secretary. A picture, not identified, hung above the fireplace. The window ledges held "many plants" and the curtains were "plain beige."¹⁰³

Mrs. Plimpton provided more substantial information on the morning room when she talked with historian William Seale in September 1985. His notes, transcribed from the interview tape, follow:

102 Mrs. George Plimpton, interview, 1985, quoted in William Seale, "Furnishing Plan, Morning Room, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site," 1986.

103 Mary Plimpton, telephone interview, February 1986, notes of Barbara B. Brandt. Mrs. Brandt also noted in her comments on the Seale "Furnishing Plan, Morning Room" (1986) that Mrs. Plimpton said the carved secretary was similar to one she herself owned and that the rest of the room had "plain simple furniture, not [a] lot [of] antiques."

Morning room “had no furniture.. it was never furnished.”

Called “Big Room.”

“I lived in that house. I lived in that room in the corner and did my lessons on a little velvet settee. Little Mary piled her books at one end of the settee and did her work on the other. The sofa was at right angles to the terrace door. No color in the room; no curtains, but beige taffeta or something—very plain, never drawn. Hung outside. All the other furniture was two large ordinary chairs covered in I don’t know what with two conventional little tables with ash trays.”

“Reasonably sized, comfortable” fireplace opening.

“I got my culture through the cracks” listening to Aunt Grace’s literary meetings”.

“Absolutely round table.”

“Extraordinary ceiling lamp...tan shade on brass rod. Like a great big lamp shade. Might have had fringe—I doubt it.”

“Furnishings. Besides the ordinary settee with ordinary velvet; I mentioned the ordinary chairs; they had standing lamps on sides of the chairs, toward the fireplace.

Bay window was filled with green plants. Awfully pretty—you saw only the plants, barely the arbor beyond. I can see Uncle Ansley yet, sitting in the corner at his desk, a window at his side; he’d work until 2 or 3 in the morning and go out and prune his arbor....”

“Where the many pictures are now [west wall?] was a large desk, about like that [indicates her own]. Mother got it in France—paid \$83.00 for it.”

“Big round table had every known magazine set in circles; plant in center. Then that terrible lamp—on a brass rod. A chest on wall opposite the fireplace—looked like a coffin. Uncle Ansley’s coffin was on this wall—open. I thought it spooky.”

“Picture of Uncle A. over mantel—I’m not sure.”

A friend says rug was like a “flowery field.” Remembered a china cow they’d fill with milk and let the children milk it. Rug felt like a flowery field.

Round table would have seated 12. Was for books, or with lace cloth for tea.

Center lamp, probably pleated silk.

You could look from the morning room into the dining room. There was a large doorway. About 4 small straight-backed chairs around the big table. There were two handsome wall chairs—Italian with leather backs.

1921. Mrs. Plimpton’s memories of the morning room are partially confirmed by the photograph of the south half of the room published in the *Buffalo Times*, March 6, 1921 (fig. 12). In this view can be seen the two large upholstered armchairs facing the fireplace, a settee in the southeast corner,

Mr. Wilcox's desk in the southwest corner, and a piece on the west wall that may have been the coffin-like chest mentioned by Mrs. Plimpton.

In other details, however, her account and the photograph differ. In 1921 the center table, octagonal rather than round, stood between the two big armchairs. Its top, uncovered, held a coffer-like box, a small compote, a lectern, and a lamp with turned base and fringed shade. An open armchair near the bay window may be the one President Taft sat in for his 1910 photograph. Only one potted plant can be seen on the window ledge. The curtains and valance on the south windows and terrace door are of a dark fabric with a strong geometric pattern of light-colored ovals.

Also visible in the 1921 photograph are the following items not mentioned by Mrs. Plimpton:¹⁰⁴

oriental gourd vase (mantel, left end)

bracket clock, mahogany case, probably English or German, 18th century or reproduction (mantel, left of center)

large painting, probably a seascape (centered over mantel)

unidentified rectangular object (mantel, right end), possibly an ornamental box of some kind

andirons and fireplace tools, wrought iron

fireplace bench or banquette (called a fender bench in the inventory of Grace Wilcox's estate), with a small oriental-style rug laid over it

round-topped stool or stand (right of hearth)

octagonal center table; probably 1935 auction item 1122, "large octagonal center table of Italian origin, circa 1650"

objects on center table:

brass or silver-plated chamber candlestick

book stand or lectern (possibly item 1169 in 1935 auction, a "polychrome painted Lecturn")

small compote, scalloped edge, white glass or china

domed-top letter or jewelry box

104 Identification of these objects is based on an analysis by Eaton Galleries, Buffalo, May 11, 1987 (THRI file, Morning Room).

table lamp with turned wood or metal base, fringed shade

portrait of Grace R. Wilcox in middle age, in an oval frame (south wall, between terrace door and bay windows); this portrait, now in a rectangular frame, is in the site collection

pair of three-light sconces, probably electric (mounted just above the wainscoting on either side of the bay)

animal figure, possibly a lion rampant (on ledge of bay window)

plant in pot with saucer (bay window ledge)

hanging lamp (?) (right side of bay)

chest, wood or leather-covered (in front of bay window)

armchair, upholstered seat and back, carved crest rail; possibly the chair in which President Taft was photographed in 1910 (fig. 11)

slant-front bureau desk (THRI 69-212) (south wall, next to west window); this was Ansley Wilcox's desk, also shown in this location in a 1919 mixed media portrait of Ansley by his brother Urquhart (fig. 12)

objects on desk:

desk lamp, metal with glass shade

pair of pyramidal china candlesticks; in the 1919 portrait (fig. 11), these candlesticks are shown as blue and red

urn, probably Chinese or European porcelain

possibly an inkstand and a perpetual calendar

books and papers

armchair with leather-covered saddle seat, three shaped splats, late 18th century style (in front of desk)

square portrait of unidentified subject (south wall, over desk); although in the 1921 photograph this light-struck painting is suggestive of a bearded man, it may have been the portrait of Ansley Wilcox's mother, Frances

Louisa Ansley Wilcox (1830-1916), by her son Urquhart Wilcox, described in 1927 as hanging over the desk in the "living room" of the Wilcox house.

A somewhat similarly-posed portrait of Mrs. Wilcox, painted about 1910, shows her with a fluffy white scarf which might be mistaken for a beard in a bad light.¹⁰⁵

two-light gas bracket, with milk glass shade and glass chimney (west wall, next to window; perhaps one of a pair)

low floor lamp with metal shade (right of desk)

small table or stand, with books on top (west wall)

armchair (west wall, between stand and chest), probably matching the one in front of the bay

large chest, probably 17th century Italian (west wall); probably the "oak chest and contents" in the 1933 inventory of the morning room and the coffin-like chest remembered by Mrs. Plimpton

oriental rug, approximately room size; possibly the Mahal carpet rug, 12'6" by 11' in the 1935 auction (item 890); Eileen O'Keefe, who came on as dining room maid in 1930, thought that the morning room rug was red, green, and blue.

The 1921 photograph tells us nothing about objects that may have been on the north wall and at the north end of the west wall.

1927-1935. Several newspaper articles about Ansley Wilcox gave fleeting glimpses of the morning room in the late 1920s. Besides the one already quoted regarding the portrait of Wilcox's mother over his desk (*Buffalo Sunday Times*, December 11, 1927), the following are worth quoting:

The morning room of the Wilcox home, rich in rare objects of art, with its sunlit Sorollas, its fine example of portraiture by Urquhart Wilcox, its really

¹⁰⁵ *Buffalo Sunday Times*, December 11, 1927; "The Art of Urquhart Wilcox," pp. 11 and 14. The portrait exhibited in 1984, then owned by Mrs. Ruth Sawyer Ewing, has since come to the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Foundation by bequest and hangs in the dining room. It is rectangular rather than square and smaller than the one in the 1921 photograph of the morning room.

splendid engraving of Joseph Choate, its wealth of carvings in woodwork and furniture....¹⁰⁶

On the wall of his study are portraits of Roosevelt, Elihu Root and Joseph H. Choate—that of Choate “a perfect likeness of a lovable old gentleman.” And Root—“good but not showing the strength of character of my splendid friend.” The Roosevelt photograph is the last one the former president had taken.... Wilcox plans to leave to some museum or historical society a big leather-covered scrapbook which now lies in the bottom drawer of an old desk in the morning room [containing photographs, clippings and notes concerning Theodore Roosevelt’s swearing-in, including the original draft of his initial proclamation].¹⁰⁷

In an old secretary in the morning room of Mr. Wilcox’s home there lies a treasure trove of documents which tell the story [of McKinley’s death and Roosevelt’s inauguration].¹⁰⁸

The last photograph taken in the morning room, tentatively dated 1934 (fig. 14), shows only the area immediately around the fireplace. Over the mantel is Urquhart Wilcox’s rather stiff portrait of his older brother Ansley, painted in 1927 when the subject was 71. The chair in the portrait, or one almost identical to it, is in front of the fireplace, facing the octagonal center table. On the mantel are a pair of wrought iron candelabra and the bracket clock that was there in 1921. There is a four-fold wire screen in front of the fireplace; a pair of ornate wrought-iron andirons with a cross bar; and, to the left, a set of wrought-iron fireplace tools. On the terrace door there is a light-colored roller shade, but no curtains.

The inventory filed with Mrs. Wilcox’s will in 1933 listed several pieces of furniture in the morning room, but with too little description to be very helpful. These included four chairs (three oak), two chests (one oak), an oak cabinet, a waste basket, a desk, a lamp, a five-piece living room set, an oak stand, a fender bench, a pine table, a console table, a book stand, a “pair of irons, tongs, etc.”, a pedestal, and a rug.¹⁰⁹

The 1935 auction catalogue offers little help since it usually did not indicate what rooms objects came from and it included items from other estates. A few items can be matched up with fair assurance, such as the “large oc-

106 *Buffalo Sunday Times*, December 18, 1927. “Sorollas” may refer to paintings by the Spanish artist, Joaquin Sorolla y Bastida (1862-1923), although none were listed in the 1935 auction catalogue.

107 *Buffalo Evening News*, February 11, 1928. The scrapbook did eventually go to the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

108 *Buffalo Evening News*, January 29, 1930.

109 See Appendix B.

tagonal center table of Italian origin, circa 1650" and the center table in the photographs, but most can not.

Summary

There is practically no direct evidence on the furnishings in this room at the time President Roosevelt used it as a temporary office in 1901. Contemporary accounts mention only an oak table. The presence of a desk and table, at least six chairs, a typewriter, and a waste paper basket can be inferred from the circumstances surrounding the drafting of the president's proclamation.

The best evidence is for the year 1921, when the southern half of the room was photographed. This visual information is supplemented and partially corroborated by the memories of Mary Wilcox Plimpton and a few others who knew the room after about 1907. Evidence from the later 1920s and early 1930s adds little to our understanding of the room's evolution, although they do suggest that the room and its furnishings never underwent a major facelift. Since Mrs. Wilcox "did not go in for interior decorating," changes, such as the addition of Italian antique pieces, tended to occur gradually in her house. The unanswered question, however, is how early the European antiques made their appearance at 641 Delaware Avenue.

Dining Room

In striking contrast with the adjoining, rather dark, Tudor morning room, the Wilcoxes' dining room was a bright and elegant expression of Colonial Revival architecture, complete with Corinthian pilasters, elaborately carved cornice, and a delicate fanlight over the doors to the terrace on the south side. Whether the contrast of styles, so readily apparent when the connecting door stood open, was architect George Cary's idea or Grace Wilcox's, it was a bold conceit that still has the power to startle the unsuspecting visitor.

Memories differ on the colors in the dining room. Mrs. Patch, who was about 18 in 1901 and a good friend of Ansley's sister Mabel, remembered the dining room as "a sunny lovely room in Colonial yellow and ivory." Mrs. William J. Donovan (Ruth Rumsey), Grace Rumsey Wilcox's much younger half-sister, thought the room had blue wallpaper and blue curtains. Mrs. George Plimpton, Ansley Wilcox's niece, said the walls and curtains were white.

Frances Wilcox's friend, Mrs. Norton, remembered blue wallpaper. The 1921 photographs (figs. 9 and 10) show striped wallpaper and sheer white curtains. When the room was restored in 1973, the W.H. Birge Company provided blue wallpaper of a pattern similar to that in the 1921 photographs.¹¹⁰

The dining room survived the restaurant period relatively unscathed, except for the removal of the original pantry door at the south end of the east wall and the opening of a new doorway in the north wall. These changes were not corrected in the restoration of the 1970s.

As befitted their place in society, the Wilcoxes took all their meals in the dining room. They did not, however, always take them together, since Mr. Wilcox's daily schedule was quite different from the norm. A niece who "spent many hours with her uncle as she was growing up" (c.1907-1920) recalled that Mr. Wilcox rose late and had breakfast about noon, while the rest of the household was having lunch. "He always sat at a small table at the window in front of the doors in the dining room, reading his paper, facing the gardens on the left of the room."¹¹¹ Luncheon guests at the dining table, it is said, had "to curtail their conversation so as not to disturb" his reading.¹¹² One of little Nina's friends remembered seeing Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox at dinner together, eating "a silent meal," while the children waited in the sitting-room for "the children's hour," but this was probably before the present dining room was built.¹¹³ In later years, Mr. Wilcox often dined alone at 9:00, long after the rest of the household.¹¹⁴

110 Patch, "Recollections"; Mrs. William J. Donovan and Mrs. Dexter P. Rumsey, Jr., interview, 1970; Plimpton, interview, 1973; Norton, "Memories of Wilcoxes"; Walter S. Dunn, "Revised Furnishing Plan," Ansley Wilcox House, June 1973, p. 11.

111 Mary Wilcox Plimpton, interview, May 5, 1973.

112 Mary Wilcox Plimpton, quoted in notes on the dining room prepared for the use of tour guides (THRI file, Dining Room).

113 Luhan, *Intimate Memories*, p.72.

114 Mrs. Porter Norton, "Memories of Wilcoxes". Mrs. Norton said that the Wilcoxes had to keep two cooks, "one for Mr. Wilcox and one for the rest of the family... because Mr. Wilcox lived a different schedule from his wife and daughters."

Although people as socially prominent as the Wilcoxes undoubtedly entertained fairly frequently, little is known about this aspect of their lives. Gilbertine Coakley Norton, Frances Wilcox's childhood friend, often ate at the Wilcoxes and recalled "the very excellent and elaborate meals with many courses, much more elaborate than in her home," and the uniformed waitress.¹¹⁵ Mrs. Ruth Rumsey Donovan, whose memories of the house go back to the early years of this century, recalled that the uniformed dining room maid "passed the food" but did not think that it was brought from the pantry to a server or rolling server.¹¹⁶

Nieces and nephews recalled the extensive Wilcox family holiday gatherings as including dinners that took "for ever, with lots of silver, crystal and many courses" after which the children would "follow Uncle Ansley around, waiting for the time that he would give them all a gold piece."¹¹⁷

In September 1901, while Theodore Roosevelt was a house guest, first as vice president, then as president, he took some of his meals in the Wilcox dining room. Besides breakfast each day, he had lunch there on September 8, with Wilcox, Seymour Sawyer, and a son of John G. Milburn. The next day Wilcox hosted a lunch for Roosevelt, Secretary Root, two of the doctors attending the wounded President McKinley, and William Loeb, Roosevelt's private secretary. On the 10th Roosevelt lunched with Wilcox and the two Wilcox daughters, just back from the country, where Mrs. Wilcox remained throughout the vice president's visit.

On his return as president, four days later, Roosevelt lunched at the Wilcoxes' before taking the oath of office. According to Ethel Chapin Patch, her father, William H. Chapin, inspector general of New York State and in charge of the president's official escort, was present at this lunch. The president occupied a chair at one end of the table, with his back to the windows, facing his host.¹¹⁸ President Roosevelt had dinner with the Wilcox family that evening. On Sunday, the 15th of September, Dr. S.S. Mitchell, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church joined the president for breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox. At lunch that day, after the McKinley funeral service, the

115 Norton, "Memories of Wilcoxes" and 1974 interview.

116 Ruth Rumsey Donovan, answers on questionnaire concerning dining room, July 15, 1973, THRI research file: Dining Room.

117 Quoted from an unnamed source, notes on the dining room for the use of tour guides (THRI file, Dining Room).

118 Mrs. Nathaniel K.B. Patch, interview, 1969.

Wilcoxes entertained the president, Secretary Root, Governor Odell of New York, Congressman Lucius Littauer, and Republican Committeeman William C. Warren. On his last day in Buffalo, President Roosevelt breakfasted at 7:30 with Wilcox and Loeb before departing for the train station.¹¹⁹ Probably only the morning room saw more of Theodore Roosevelt during the time he spent at 641 Delaware Avenue.

Furnishings

George Cary's floor plan of the 1896 alterations to Ansley Wilcox's house (fig. 1) indicated with a cross (+) the locations for a center light, probably electrified, and two sconces on the north wall. The chandelier and one of the sconces are visible in the 1921 photographs (figs. 9, 10).¹²⁰

The only pre-1901 reference to the dining room concerns the table and tablecloth. From the Austrian Tyrol Grace Wilcox wrote on August 17, 1899, asking Ansley to have Mabel, his sister and temporarily mistress of 641 Delaware Avenue, measure "the tablecloth she uses to the round top & 2 extra leaves," so that she can order cloth in Paris and have it "marked." The one presently in use, she pointed out, was a little short but the only one big enough for the table. This reference to a round extension table suggests that the rectangular table in the 1921 photographs may have been acquired after 1901.¹²¹

One of the exterior photographs taken about 1901 shows plain white curtains on the terrace doors; on the flanking windows were roller shades with a bold floral design painted on them (fig. 19).

Mrs. Plimpton, whose memories of the room went back to about 1907, stated in 1973 that "the Wilcoxes never changed the furnishings of the dining room." She remembered the following details:

the walls and curtains were white

the sideboard was placed against the wall opposite the windows; it was long and narrow with a cupboard on either end

the china cabinet was a beautiful piece of furniture which stood on legs

119 See pp. 24, above.

120 First Floor Plan, Alterations to Residence of Ansley Wilcox, in George Cary Papers, BECHS.

121 Grace R. Wilcox to Ansley Wilcox, Tyrol, August 17, 1899, Wilcox Collection, BECHS (THRI copy).

the dishes in the china cabinet were Lowestoft

the chairs were antiques

the portrait of Frances hung over the fireplace

Mrs. Porter Norton, a contemporary of Frances Wilcox, remembered blue wallpaper in the dining room, beautiful French Limoges china, Italian glassware, and two portraits: one of Frances Wilcox by Cecilia Beaux and a childhood portrait of Ansley Wilcox (THRI 77.23.4). The Beaux portrait of Frances, she thought, was painted later than the ca.1907 portrait by Urquhart Wilcox, now hanging in the dining room.¹²²

Eileen O'Keefe, who came to the Wilcoxes in 1930 as dining room maid or waitress, remembered a blue rug in the dining room, a table in the corner by the fireplace, and a clock. In her day, she was sure, there was no door from the dining room into the morning room.¹²³

The only photographs of the Wilcoxes' dining room are two taken in 1921, one of which appeared in the *Buffalo Times*, March 6, 1921 (figs. 9 and 10). Between them, these photographs show all of the room except the northwest corner, most of which was occupied by the doors to the hall and the morning room.

Furnishings visible in these photographs are as follows:

Center

extension table, square with chamfered corners, deep ogee apron, and a massive split pedestal with four radiating legs, mahogany, Classical Revival style, c.1900, "probably made by Hersee or Burkey and Gay (Rochester)"; possibly the "square dining room table, with 6 leaves" in the 1935 auction; in the photograph the table is bare, except for a narrow white runner on which is set a plain compote filled with fruit.¹²⁴

122 Norton, "Memories of Wilcoxes" and interview, 1974. The Beaux portrait of Frances Wilcox is owned by the Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York.

123 Eileen O'Keefe, interview tape.

124 This attribution and those of other items in these photographs were made by Allain Ramsay, Buffalo antique dealer, in 1973. See Dunn, "Revised Furnishing Plan," pp. 20-21.

chairs (eight, including two armchairs), splat-back, cabriole leg with pad foot, upholstered slip seat, Queen Anne style, “probably made by Hersee or Burkey and Gay at same time as table circa 1900”; the two armchairs are placed at the north and south ends of the table; the side chairs sit randomly back near the four walls (only four are visible, although there had to be two more to make up the set of eight in Mrs. Wilcox’s 1933 estate inventory).

crystal chandelier, five-light, with frosted and etched glass shades; possibly originally made for gas, although there were electric center lights in some rooms of the 1896 addition.¹²⁵

rug, two-tone with a regular overall pattern, possibly an Axminster; judging from the photographs it must have been about 9 feet by 14 feet.¹²⁶

North wall

sideboard, mahogany, with raised end sections, spiral columns and paw feet, carved back, probably late American Empire, mid-19th century; described in the 1935 auction catalogue (lot 1127) as “carved mahogany buffet of 3 compartments, mirror at back of center compartment, claw feet on 4 highly carved columns.”

on the sideboard (only the center and east end show in fig. 9): silver tea service on a silver tray, resting on a white cloth; a silver loving cup with four handles; a pair of silver candlesticks with shades.¹²⁷

sconces (presumably two, although only the one to the right of the sideboard shows), two-light, gas or electric, with frosted glass shades and crystal pendants identical to those on the chandelier.

East wall

card table, mahogany, Hepplewhite style (left of fireplace); on its bare top, a pair of metal (pewter?) candlesticks and a pair of porcelain covered pots, probably of European origin; in 1933 inventory as “table and contents.”

muffin stand (left of fireplace); also in inventory, 1933.

125 The original chandelier was stolen in 1937 while the mansion was being refitted as a restaurant, according to Oliver M. Lawrence, Jr. (letter to Mr. Foschio, January 8, 1983). It was duplicated for the 1973 restoration, using the 1921 photographs as a guide.

126 Of the many rugs in the 1935 auction, mostly orientals, the only one that might be the Wilcox’s dining room rug was item 856 “Domestic rug, flowered squares design, approx. 8’ x 10’.

127 The 1933 inventory of Mrs. Wilcox’s silver included a 3-piece English tea service, several silver and plated waiters (trays), a pair of silver candlesticks, and two loving cups.

portrait of Frances Wilcox, painted by Cecilia Beaux, 190?, hanging by two wires from the picture rail (left of fireplace).

portrait, unidentified subject (over fireplace); the portrait is completely hidden behind the chandelier in figure 9.

brass fender, grate, and fireplace tools.

pair of crystal five-light candelabra (on mantel); also in 1933 inventory; "almost undoubtedly made by Hersee" (Allain Ramsay attribution); possibly in 1935 auction as lot 1177: "pair of crystal candelabra with prism drops, space for 5 candles."

pair of small, flared bowls (on mantel); "Steuben or St. Clair aureen (gold glass) in the classic style done by Fred Carter at Steuben 1900-1914" (Allain Ramsay attribution); Chinese, red or blue (Tom Mileham attribution).

small clock (centered on mantel) in 1933 inventory.

South wall

classical, round pedestal, with glazed pottery planter, (attributed by Ramsay to Weller, circa 1880-1890), containing an ivy plant (southeast corner); another classical pedestal, square, with an oblong planter containing an ivy plant (southwest corner); only one pedestal was listed in the 1933 inventory.

oval servicing table, supported by two vase-shaped pedestals, probably American Empire (in front of terrace doors), covered with a white, embroidered round tablecloth; listed as serving table in 1933 inventory; possibly also served as Mr. Wilcox's breakfast table.

sheer, white curtains on windows and doors, hanging straight from a thin rod; behind the window curtains, light-colored shades, rolled up, unfortunately, so that it is impossible to tell if they were the painted shades present in 1901.

the striped awning visible through the fanlight in the 1921 photograph appears to be the same or similar to the one in the 1901 exterior view.

West wall

china cabinet, mahogany, with dome top, fretwork on glass doors, two cupboards below; probably made about 1890-1900 (Ramsay); listed in 1933 inventory as "china cabinet and contents" (mahogany); possibly the "Chinese Chippendale curio cabinet" in the 1935 auction (lot 1141).

The contents of the china cabinet, barely distinguishable in the 1921 photograph, probably were show pieces rather than dinner ware, which was kept in the butler's pantry.¹²⁸

In 1927 a newspaper account briefly mentioned the Wilcox's "attractive dining room, where one can easily distinguish George Cary's magic touch, in interior beautification" and noted on its wall the portrait of Frances Wilcox by Evelyn Rumsey Cary, not the Beaux portrait visible in the 1921 photograph or the Urquhart Wilcox portrait.¹²⁹

Besides the articles of furniture mentioned above, Mrs. Wilcox's estate inventory of 1933 listed under Dining Room a screen and a small rug.¹³⁰

Much silver and china was listed in the 1935 auction catalogue but it is impossible to identify what actually had belonged to the Wilcoxes.¹³¹

Before and since the restoration of the dining room in 1973 several objects historically associated with it have come back to the Wilcox mansion. These include the above-mentioned portrait of Frances Wilcox by Evelyn Rumsey Cary, painted in 1902 (THRI 77.23.5); the portrait of Ansley Wilcox as a child (THRI 77.23.4); a plated silver meat platter; a silver tray engraved with views of an unidentified city and the initials of Daniel Hand Wilcox, Ansley's father; four tea cups and six saucers, gilt-edged, with initials of Grace Rumsey Wilcox in gilt, Minton china (THRI 73.564); four side plates, gilt-edged, Limoges (THRI 73.565); and a three-piece, unmarked, gilt-edged tea service (THRI 73.734).

Presently hanging in the restored dining room, the Urquhart Wilcox portraits of Frances Wilcox, c. 1907; of Henry Adsit Bull, Jr., Ansley Wilcox's grandson, c. 1908; and of Urquhart's and Ansley's mother, Francis Louisa Ansley Wilcox, c. 1910, have no documented association with that room.

Summary

While there is no photograph or contemporary description of the Wilcox dining room at the time of Theodore Roosevelt's two visits, reminiscences suggest and two 1921 photographs appear to confirm that the room changed lit-

128 Eileen O'Keefe, the 1930 dining room maid, described the pantry as "full of dishes, glasses" (interview).

129 *Buffalo Times*, December 18, 1927: "By Accident Theodore Roosevelt Chose Place...."

130 See appendix B for the full list.

131 See appendix E.

tle through the years and therefore probably looked essentially the same in 1901 and 1921. There may have been a round, rather than square, extension table, but the other furniture probably did not change. Wall decorations are another matter, however. With the exception of Ansley Wilcox's portrait as a small child, none of the known family portraits later associated with the room was painted earlier than 1902.

Parlors

The two connecting rooms on the left as one entered the Wilcox house from Delaware Avenue were collectively known as the parlors. Apparently untouched in the 1896 renovations, these rooms retain an architectural simplicity very different from the stylish eclecticism of the other rooms on the first floor. Except for the wide opening between the two rooms, they must look very much as they did when Zachary Taylor's daughter was in residence here as an army wife in the 1840s.

Like the library across the hall, the parlors were primarily associated with Mrs. Wilcox. It was here that she received visitors formally; the library was for family, intimate friends, and "The Class."

Nothing is known about the parlor furnishings before 1921, the only time they were photographed during the Wilcoxes' residence (figs. 15-17). These photographs show that, as befitted their purpose, the parlors were furnished with an eye more to elegance than comfort. Many of the pieces were of French and Italian origin, acquired by Mrs. Wilcox on her several European trips; some were early American.¹³²

Mrs. Wilcox's estate inventory (appendix B) lists quite a few of the parlor furnishings but is not specific enough to be very helpful except concerning materials (e.g., marble pedestal, oak cabinet, mahogany piano, etc.).

While the 1935 auction catalogue did not identify Wilcox parlor furnishings as such, several lots clearly match the 1921 photographs. Notable among these are the following:

lot 1118: "Florentine 2-fold screen, center of antique French brocade" (fig. 16)

lot 1132: "Empire curio table, with removable glass top, plush lined compartment" (figs. 15-17)

132 Mrs. Porter Norton, interview, 1974.

lot 1163: painting, "The Little Princess," by Gaston La Touche, 61" x 55"; probably the large painting over the sofa on the east wall (fig. 15); this brought \$155.00, the highest price paid for any of the paintings in the sale

lot 1180: "5 pair of red brocade drapes, 4 pair are 8'6" x 3'7", 1 pair of door drapes are 7'6" x 3'3", with valances to match" (figs. 15-17)

lot 1204: "pair of carved wood figure wall ornaments" (figs. 15 and 17)

lot 1207: "mahogany harpsichord made by Daniel Thomas, 87 Warren Street, New York City; case inlaid with strips of satinwood, brass ormolu, legs of carved mahogany with brass claw feet, circa 1770"; sold for \$80.00, the highest price for a piece of furniture (fig. 16)

lot 1209: "pair of plaster figure lamps, 5 outlights" (on mantel, fig. 17)

lot 1220: "large Adams 3-section mirror, decorated with garlands of wheat at top and two carved wood figures for finial, 60" x 57" (over mantel, fig. 17)¹³³

Besides the 18th century harpsichord in the back parlor, there was also a mahogany upright piano with a "craftsman-style" piano bench in the front parlor in 1921. This was apparently a player piano; several piano rolls can be seen beside it in figure 16. It may have been replaced after 1921, since Oliver Lawrence, Jr., remembered that there was a rosewood grand piano left in the house and sold by his parents when they were converting the first floor to public dining rooms.¹³⁴

The south walls of the two parlors, removed in 1938, were restored in 1970. The rooms have since been used for exhibits.

Front Hall

The 1933 inventory of Mrs. Wilcox's estate is the only source of information on furnishings in the rather wide front hall of the Wilcox house. These included two clothes trees, two umbrella stands, a pair of mahogany end tables, three console tables (one with mirror), a marble table, a "tip-up table," a davenport, five chairs (two with haircloth upholstery), a picture, and two hall rugs (one described as a runner). How much of this furniture was present in 1901 there is no way of knowing.

133 Gilbert, "Unrestricted Auction Sale...." (see appendix E); report of sale in *Buffalo Courier Express*, May 25, 1935, p. 26.

134 Oliver M. Lawrence, Jr., to Mr. Foschio, January 8, 1983 (THRI files).

Service Wing

The rest of the first floor, all dating from 1896, comprised the service wing of the Wilcox mansion (fig. 1). It included a side entry hall with attached wash-room, an alcove off the back hall containing a vault, a "servants' hall" or sitting room, a storeroom, the kitchen and kitchen pantry, and a butler's pantry.

What little is known about the function and furnishings of these rooms follows.

Side Hall—After 1896 most people entered the house through the side door. The attached "toilet room," containing a porcelain "W.C." and wash basin, was the only one on the first floor.

There is no evidence on the side hall's furnishings, although some of those listed under Front Hall in Mrs. Wilcox's estate inventory (1933) may have been in the side hall, not mentioned in the inventory.

Vault—Built into the alcove under the back stairs, the steel-doored vault was used for the safekeeping of jewelry, silver, and other valuables, along with important papers. The door and exterior framing were painted cream or off-white to match the surrounding woodwork.¹³⁵

Maids' Sitting Room—Called "Servants Hall" on the 1896 floor plan (fig. 1), this room was a sitting room for the use of maids, cooks, and other house servants when off duty. Its south side served as the only passageway between the back hall and the kitchen area. The original plans called for a radiator on the west wall, an electric center light, and picture moulding.¹³⁶

For a late listing of furniture in this room, see Mrs. Wilcox's estate inventory (appendix B, p. 5).

Kitchen Storeroom—Between the maids' sitting room and the kitchen was a small (11'6" x 6'2") shelf-lined storeroom with an asphalt floor, used to store

¹³⁵ John H. Guldner, quoted in "Caretaker of Mansion..." clipping from unidentified Buffalo newspaper, December 22, 1935.

¹³⁶ George Cary Collection, first floor plan and "Specification for the Carpentry Work...." (1896), p. 7 (see appendix C).

food and other kitchen items, including ice. The Georgia pine woodwork was naturally finished (varnish over shellac) and there was an overhead electric light.¹³⁷

Kitchen—The kitchen occupied the northeast corner of the service wing; it measured approximately 20' x 17', less the space taken by the cellar stairs in the southwest corner (fig. 1). Against the cellar stair wall was a 20" x 30" Yorkshire kitchen sink on brackets, with grooved wood sink boards on either side. Close by was a "500 George M. Clark water heater with Morrill regulator," connected to an "overhanging 100 gallon copper hot water boiler with iron brackets." There was a wooden towel roller. Against the chimney on the east wall sat the kitchen range, probably gas-operated since "piping for fuel gas" was "brought to the furnace and to the kitchen and all fireplaces" in 1896. An overhead electric light was indicated on the 1896 floor plan.¹³⁸

All meals were prepared in this kitchen. The servants also took their meals there, at an oak dining table with (in 1933) five oak chairs. Other furnishings present in 1933 included an electric stove besides the "kitchen stove," three kitchen tables, a rocker, and a clock.¹³⁹

Kitchen Pantry—This narrow room in the southeast corner was lined with cupboards and served both as a storeroom and as the passageway between the kitchen and the butler's pantry. As in the other service rooms in this part of the house, the pine woodwork was naturally finished, the floor shellacked and oiled. There was an overhead electric light.¹⁴⁰

Butler's Pantry—In the butler's pantry, located between the kitchen and the dining room, the waitress readied food and dishes for delivery to the dining room, washed dishes after each meal, and put away the table china and glassware. Cupboards with counters lined the walls. On the west side there

137 Cary, "Specification for the Carpentry Work...", and "Specification for the Painting and Glazing..." (appendix C). The lower part of the center window of the storeroom was to have a door for ice.

138 Cary, "Specifications for the Mason Work...", "Specifications for the Carpentry Work...", and "Plumber's Specifications..." (appendix C).

139 Inventory of Grace R. Wilcox estate, 1933, p. 5 (appendix B).

140 Cary, "Specifications for Painting and Glazing..." (appendix C).

was a sink, originally an oval copper one, 14" x 20", with "nickel plated Fullers pantry cocks for hot and cold water," replaced about 1915 by "a German silver sink" reputed to have cost \$500. The heating radiator in the butler's pantry was equipped with a plate warmer "as shown in Bundy's catalogue."¹⁴¹

Furnishings in the butler's pantry in 1933 included an ice box, a kitchen table, two chairs, and a step ladder, along with unspecified dishes and glasses valued at a nominal \$25. China and glassware were not separately listed in Mrs. Wilcox's inventory. Some of the china and glassware in the 1935 auction undoubtedly came from the Wilcox estate, but it was not so identified in the catalogue. Lot 746, for example: "65 pieces of gold-banded china, the greater portion with monogram," may have been the set of gold-banded and monogrammed Minton china of which a few pieces have survived (see Dining Room section of this report, above).¹⁴²

Second Floor

There were seven bedrooms on the second floor of the Wilcox house, four in the original front section and three larger ones in the 1896 back section (fig. 20). Those at the front, with the central hall, were lost in 1938 when the Lawrences took out the partitions to create an upstairs banquet room; the other three bedrooms have survived more or less intact. There were also four bathrooms, a sewing room, and a storeroom on this floor.¹⁴³

Who slept where in the Wilcox house is a question only partly answerable, especially for the time of President Roosevelt's 1901 visit. The 1933 inventory offers some clues for the last years of the Wilcox residency; for the early years there is little solid information to go on. In the following room-by-room analysis of the evidence, the sequence of rooms follows that of the 1933 inventory so that the apparent relationship of one room to another is not lost.

141 Eileen O'Keefe, former waitress, interview; Cary, "Plumber's Specifications...." and "Specifications for Heating...." (appendix C); John H. Guldner, quoted in "Caretaker of Mansion...." (1935).

142 Gilbert, "Unrestricted Auction Sale...." (appendix E).

143 Oliver M. Lawrence, Jr., to Mr. Foschio, January 8, 1983 (THRI files). There is no contemporary plan of the front portion of the house before the 1938 alterations.

Room names have been assigned to show their locations and do not always coincide with those used in the 1933 inventory.¹⁴⁴

North Front Room (201)

Gilbertine Norton remembered that her childhood friend Frances Wilcox “had a small room over the front porch,” which could mean either of two rooms fitting this description, one on the north side of the hall (201) and one on the south side (208). After the 1896 addition made it possible, it seems likely that Frances would have moved into a larger room, possibly 202 or 210, in the front part of the house, since Mrs. Wilcox suggested in 1899, while traveling in Europe with Frances, that Ansley’s visiting mother might “move into Frances’ room & let Mabel come back next to me.”¹⁴⁵

Later, the north front room was a guest room (possibly part of a guest suite, rooms 201-203) with an ivory bed, dresser and table, and other bedroom furniture listed on page 6 of the 1933 inventory (appendix B).

North Middle Room and Bathroom (202 and 203)—The north middle room, in the front part of the house, with its connecting bathroom, added in 1896, was part of the suite (201-203) that is said to have been used by President Taft on his visits in 1908 and 1910.¹⁴⁶ Its designation as “Mr. Wilcox’s Room” in 1933, three years after his death, suggests that Ansley Wilcox occupied it during his last illness, when the connecting bathroom would have made it more convenient than the south back bedroom (211) he had used earlier. However, Ansley Wilcox’s last nurse said that when she went up the back stairs, her patient’s room was to the left, with “a little dressing room off the bathroom from the bedroom,” where she used to sit. This description does not seem to fit any bedroom/bathroom combination, unless the bathroom (203) had at some time been partitioned to create a dressing room.¹⁴⁷

In 1933 the furnishings in room 202 and the adjoining bathroom included an ivory chest of drawers and stand, which may indicate that the guest “suite” also included the north front room (201) with its ivory furniture. See appen-

144 On the second floor plan (fig. 20) numbers have been assigned reflecting this sequence, for ease of cross-referencing in the text.

145 Mrs. Porter Norton, “Memories of Wilcoxes”; Grace R. Wilcox to Ansley Wilcox, Innsbruck, July 14, 1899, site files.

146 John H. Guldner (“Caretaker of Mansion...,” 1935) referred to this as “the suite across the hall [from the south front room] which President Taft occupied many times.”

147 Violet Kendall, R.N., interview, May 26, 1981, transcript in site files.

dix B, pages 6-7, for a list of the furnishings then in “Mr. Wilcox’s Room” and “Bathroom—Mr. Wilcox.”

The bedroom disappeared in the 1938 alterations and the bathroom was converted into a kitchenette, probably at the same time, to serve the second floor banquet room. These changes have not been reversed.

Sewing Room (204) and Storeroom (205)—These two rooms on the north side, east of the back stairs, were the only service rooms on the second floor.

The sewing room, so designated on the 1896 floor plan (fig. 20) and in the 1933 inventory, was probably used by the upstairs maid and visiting seamstresses. The 1896 plan indicates built-in cupboards with counters on either side of the hall door and two wall lights on the east and west walls. A 1901 exterior photograph shows plain white, straight-hung curtains in the window. See appendix B, page 7 for a list of furnishings in 1933, which did not include a sewing machine.

The adjoining but not connecting room (205) was called “Dressing Room” on the 1896 floor plan; it was to have a pair of wall lights on the east wall and a bed on the west side; the south end was a closet. In 1933 the space was called a “Store Room”; its furnishings are listed in appendix B, pages 7-8.

These two rooms were later converted to a single room, probably during the Lawrence ownership, and have not been restored.

North Back Room (206)—Located in the northeast corner of the 1896 wing, this room was apparently furnished as a bedroom but unoccupied in 1899, when Mrs. Wilcox suggested that her sister-in-law, Mabel Wilcox, could “come back next to me” if Grandmother Wilcox took Frances’ room for the fall.¹⁴⁸ Interestingly, two single beds are shown against the west wall in the 1896 plan, along with a pair of wall lights on the south wall (fig. 20).

Photographs taken in 1921 (figs. 21 and 22) show that Mrs. Wilcox was then using the northeast room (206) as her bedroom and the southeast room (214) as her upstairs sitting room or boudoir. The room had been electrified by this

148 Grace R. Wilcox to Ansley Wilcox, Innsbruck, July 14, 1899.

time and a pair of wall lights is visible in the northeast corner. Mrs. Wilcox's antique full-size bed sat directly in front of the north window, which was covered with flowered curtains. The furniture appears to have been a mixture of Italian and early American; a Gothic cabinet on the north wall may be one made for Mrs. Wilcox by George Cary in 1912.¹⁴⁹ Over the mantel hung Evelyn Rumsey Cary's 1902 portrait of Frances Wilcox. There is no obvious relationship between these furnishings and the ones listed in Mrs. Wilcox's bedroom in 1933 (see Mrs. Wilcox's Bedroom, below).

At the time of her death in 1933 Mrs. Wilcox was again using the southeast room (214) as her bedroom. The northeast room (206) was still furnished as a bedroom, however, since it included a cheval glass and a "chaise lounge," along with a bed, two chests of drawers, a mahogany desk, and other furniture (appendix B, page 8). None of the furnishings can clearly be identified with those in the 1921 photograph or with those sold at auction in 1935.

During the Lawrence occupancy, a two story addition to the house on the north side created a narrow room (207) behind the north back bedroom (206), reached only by an outside stairway. The present doorway between room 206 and 207 dates from the 1970s; it was put in to facilitate use of the north back room as the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Foundation's souvenir and book shop.

While the evidence is not conclusive, there is a strong possibility that room 206, rather than the adjoining southeast chamber (214), was Mrs. Wilcox's bedroom during much of her life. For other evidence bearing on this point, see Southeast Room (214), below.

South Front Room (208)—This may have been the "small room over the front porch" occupied by Frances Wilcox when she was a little girl (see also North Front Room (201), above). In 1896 its south window was converted into a single, rounded bay window with a stained glass dome and, outside, a simulated balcony, perhaps an indication that this was indeed the room of favored daughter Frances. At some point, perhaps in the Lawrence era, the bay window was removed; it has not been restored.

One shred of evidence raises the possibility that this was the room Theodore Roosevelt occupied during his two visits in September 1901. In 1935 it was

¹⁴⁹ Two drawings for this "cabinet for Mrs. Wilcox," dated May and August, 1912, are in the George Cary Papers: Ansley Wilcox House (BECHS). Cf. Lot 394 in the 1935 auction: "Old Gothic panel, converted into a book case, profusely carved" (appendix E).

reported that the bed in which President Roosevelt slept was “still there in the front south bedroom.” Since John Guldner, the old Wilcox employee who pointed this out to the reporter, also spoke of President Taft’s “suite” across the hall, the inference is that the bed was still in the same room it had been in when Roosevelt slept in it. There seems to be no other evidence to enlighten us on this detail of the Roosevelt-Wilcox story.¹⁵⁰

In 1933 this room was rather simply furnished as a bedroom with a mahogany bed, dresser, stand, commode, and a few other pieces (see appendix B, pages 8-9). A 1934 photograph entitled: “Bed in Which Roosevelt Slept” (fig. 23) shows a single-size, mahogany bed, with turned and reeded posts and no head or footboard, very different from the one described in the 1935 article as “pale oak..with a black onyx frieze inset into the headboard.”¹⁵¹ The “ornate bedroom furniture” Roosevelt used, as it was described by yet another journalist, was withheld from the 1935 auction and apparently passed into the hands of Nina Wilcox Bull, Ansley’s older daughter. She declined to give up the bed some years later, when a Buffalo citizens group was trying to save the house, saying: “Well, I’m sleeping in it.” She had also had it cut down, according to a cousin.¹⁵² It has recently come back to the house, a gift from Nina’s daughter, Marian Bull Eames, but is in too fragmentary a state to exhibit.¹⁵³ Whether the bed that has survived (rather less than more, apparently), was actually used by Theodore Roosevelt seems unprovable at this point. Also visible in the 1934 photograph (fig. 23) are a small rush-seated armchair and a mahogany stand, presumably those listed in the 1933 inventory. The same photograph shows two doors, one taller than the other, on the same (east ?) wall; one probably led to a closet or to the adjoining bedroom (210) and the other to the bathroom (209), since there would not have been two doors opening on the hall.

Bathroom (209)—A cryptic listing in the 1933 inventory of a bathroom apparently located on the south side between the south front bedroom (208) and the “Louis XIV Bedroom” (210) is hard to interpret in the absence of physical evidence. Removed in 1938, this bathroom was probably a small room, since

150 “Caretaker of Mansion...,” from unidentified clipping in Buffalo newspaper, December 22, 1935. In 1901, Guldner was, at the age of 13, the Wilcox’s new stable boy; he later became Ansley Wilcox’s chauffeur and, after the Wilcoxes died, caretaker of the property for the Dexter P. Rumsey Estate.

151 Inventory of Grace R. Wilcox estate, 1933 (appendix B); *Buffalo News*, June 20, 1934.

152 *Buffalo Courier Express*, May 25, 1935; Donald Scott Rumsey, interview.

153 The bed is in storage at Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, but was not accessible for viewing by the author (August 1988).

its furnishings in 1933 consisted only of a bench and a towel rack. If one of the two doors on the presumed east wall of the front room (208, fig. 23) led to this bathroom, it was probably the one on the right, which would have permitted the placement of plumbing on the outside wall. Architectural investigation is needed to uncover physical evidence that may exist under the floor in this area to determine the bathroom's (209) actual location.

South Middle Room (210)—Use of the appellation “Louis XIV Room” to identify this room in the 1933 inventory probably indicates that its furnishings were of French origin, acquired by Grace Wilcox on one or more of her trips to Europe. The inventory taken in 1933 only hints at this; references to a “grey bed” and “2 pair over drapes” are perhaps indicative of its difference from other bedrooms. The room also had fire tongs and andirons for a working fireplace on the south wall. See appendix B, page 9, for a complete listing of the 1933 furnishings.

Since no French bedroom furnishings appear in the 1935 auction catalogue, they were probably among the French and Italian pieces kept by Frances Wilcox Cooke for use in her homes in Connecticut and New York City.¹⁵⁴

No individual can be associated with this room unless the two south rooms and bathroom were, like those on the north side, a suite, in which case, if Roosevelt used the front room, he may also have had the use of this one as a sleeping room or a dressing room.

South Back Bedroom (211)—Despite its name, which suggests a room at the very back of the house, the context of the 1933 inventory clearly indicates that the term “back” simply meant that this was the south bedroom in the back section of the house, as opposed to the southeast bedroom, identified as Mrs. Wilcox's room (214). Though not identified as Mr. Wilcox's room in the inventory, other evidence suggests that this was the room Ansley Wilcox occupied before ill health forced him to give it up in favor of a room on the north side (202) with a connecting bathroom.

Mrs. Norton remembered Mr. Wilcox's room as being “at the back of the house.”¹⁵⁵ Of the three bedrooms fitting this description, the southeast room (214) was clearly Mrs. Wilcox's bedroom or sitting room, while the adjoining northeast room (206) was vacant in 1899 and was Mrs. Wilcox's bedroom in

154 Mrs. Porter Norton, undated interview.

155 Norton, “Memories of Wilcoxes.”

1921. The third “back” bedroom (211) was on the south side of the house, overlooking the gardens that Ansley Wilcox loved and personally tended. The largest of the bedrooms, with an adjoining (but not connecting) bathroom, it was conveniently located opposite the back stairs, allowing its occupant to come and go without disturbing those in the front and back rooms. The room has such a master bedroom quality about it that it can almost certainly be assigned to the master of the house, despite the lack of hard evidence to support this judgment.

The 1896 floor plan of the second floor (fig. 20) indicates that there was a pair of wall lights in the southeast corner, probably for a dresser, and another wall light just inside the hall door, next to the bed on the north wall. There was a walk-in closet in the northwest corner and a door in the west wall connected with the “Louis XIV Bedroom” (210), perhaps originally intended to be a dressing room for the master bedroom.

The long list of furnishings in the “south back bedroom” in 1933 included several mahogany pieces and a bed described as “maple mahogany finish,” along with a “fire-side chair,” a tea table, a waste paper basket valued at 5 cents, and other items.¹⁵⁶

Bathroom (212)—For some reason, the bathroom next to the master bedroom opened on the hall, with no connecting door to the bedroom. It contained a porcelain “Primo” water closet, a “Corona” bathtub, and a 19" x 15" oval, porcelain lavatory, ivory tinted. One wall light was on the east wall, between wash basin and toilet.¹⁵⁷

The furnishings in this bathroom in 1933 included a towel rack, a stand, an ivory chest of drawers, and two mirrors.¹⁵⁸

Southeast Room (214)—The southeast chamber was designed as “Mrs. Wilcox’s room” and was used by her from 1896 until her death in 1933.¹⁵⁹ Although it appears to have been her bedroom part of the time, the only contem-

156 For the complete list see appendix B, p. 10.

157 Cary, second floor plan and “Plumber’s Specifications...” (appendix C).

158 Inventory of Grace R. Wilcox estate, 1933 (appendix B, pages 10-11).

159 Cary’s specifications for carpentry included a reference to “the bay window in Mrs. Wilcox’s room,” which could apply only to the southeast chamber.

porary photograph, taken in 1921 (fig. 22), shows it furnished as a sitting room, while a second 1921 photograph (fig. 21) shows the adjoining northeast room (206) as her bedroom.

On the original 1896 floor plan (fig. 20), architect George Cary indicated the placement of the bed in the northeast corner, facing the door and away from the windows. The arrangement seems awkward, but Mrs. Wilcox apparently suffered from weak eyes and, as one of her daughter's friends recalled, "spent a lot of time resting in a dark room."¹⁶⁰ The brightness of this room, in fact, may explain why Mrs. Wilcox had her bed in the other, somewhat darker, room in 1921, with its head against the curtain-covered north window.

The 1896 plan shows a pair of wall lights on the west wall to the left of the bathroom door; these would have dictated the placement of a dresser. Another pair of wall lights flanked the bay window on the east wall.

The southeast room had two special features that heightened its attractiveness. A deep rectangular bay on the east wall had leaded glass casement windows and a wide window ledge, ideal for potted plants. The early American feeling of the room was reinforced by a delicate ceiling moulding and a classical wood mantel.

The furnishings visible in the 1921 photograph (fig. 22) clearly indicate that the room was then being used as a lady's sitting room. On the east side can be seen a small oriental rug; a low bench or table; a floor lamp; two modern upholstered armchairs; a modern sofa or lounge with an anti-macassar and several pillows; and a square table with a cover, lamp, and several books. On the window ledge are two planters; in the center of the window opening is mounted a small decorative bracket. On the wall to the right are two two-light electric fixtures and between them a stone or plaster bracket holding a small picture.

On the south wall is the fireplace, with brass fender, andirons, and tools. Over the mantel hangs a large mirror topped with a classical urn and swags. The mantel holds about 10 miscellaneous ornamental objects and 2 small pictures rest on top of the pilasters that flank the fireplace opening. In front of the fireplace sits a small table with a white cover, on a small oriental rug.

160 Louise Michael, undated interview. Miss Michael lived next door as a child and often played in the Wilcox house. "Mrs. Wilcox was a scary figure to small children," she told the interviewer; "sometimes her voice would boom out of her room asking 'Who is there?'".

In the southwest corner is an upholstered easy chair, flanked by a low bookcase and small stand. Along the west wall can be seen a glass-fronted bookcase or cabinet, a round table with turned pedestal, two electric table lamps, a desk, and armchair. Two gas wall lamps are on the wall, to the left of the (not visible) bathroom door.

The north wall, as reflected in the overmantel mirror, appears to have held a large bookcase, well filled with books.

The three windows are framed with floral curtains and valances. Roller shades with tasseled pulls are visible in the two south windows.

The 1933 inventory of Mrs. Wilcox's bedroom included a number of things not in the 1921 photograph, such as a bed, a white table, a mahogany rocker, a screen, and three ivory bookcases; other items, including a desk and a davenport, might have been the same as the ones in the photograph. For the full list, see appendix B, page 11.

The 1933 furnishings do not appear to be the same as the ones in Mrs. Wilcox's bedroom in 1921 (fig. 21), except perhaps for the screen and the undescribed table and armchairs. In fact, except for the bed, the 1933 furnishings read more like those of a sitting room than a bedroom, leaving open the possibility that Mrs. Wilcox normally slept in the adjoining room (206) but at the very end of her life moved into the brighter, cheerier sitting room (214), which had the added advantage of an attached bathroom (213).

Bathroom (213)—The bathroom connecting with the southeast room (214) was different from the others on the second floor in that it contained a tub and lavatory, but no water closet. The fixtures were otherwise identical to those in the adjoining bathroom (212). On the north side was a walk-in closet. The only lighting fixture indicated on the 1896 plan was on the west wall, over the wash basin.¹⁶¹

Second Floor Hall—The only lighting in the back hall, according to the 1896 plan, was a pair of wall fixtures on the south side, one opposite the stairs and the other opposite the sewing room; these were electric lights, according to the 1896 "Electrical Specifications." There is no information on

¹⁶¹ Cary, second floor plan and "Plumber's Specifications..." (appendix C). See appendix B, page 11, for the bathroom furnishings in 1933.

how the front hall upstairs, removed in 1938, was lighted. For a list of furnishings in the “Upstairs [front] Hall” and “Back Hall” in 1933, see appendix B, page 12¹⁶²

Third Floor

There is little information on the third floor, which was given over to servants’ quarters (bedrooms, servants’ hall, and bathroom) in the 1896 section and to attic-type storage in the older front section and a bedroom over the portico. Furnishings on the third floor were listed in Mrs. Wilcox’s 1933 inventory, (appendix B, pages 12-13).

Cellar

Little is known about the cellar beyond what was spelled out in the various specifications drawn up in 1896 by George Cary for the new back wing. The floor was to be of Portland cement. There was a wine cellar, complete with bottle racks, “at proper angle, and notched and cut for bottles.” In the “vegetable cellar” were a “rack of standing shelves and two racks of hanging shelves.” Although the furnace was gas-operated, it was equipped for possible future conversion to coal, and two coal bins were constructed in anticipation. The basement “toilet room” was supplied with a porcelain “washout W.C., the Primo D Mott or as good” and a wash basin.¹⁶³

Heating System

The heating system installed in connection with the 1896 alterations to the Wilcox residence is described in detail in George Cary’s “Specifications for the Heating for Residence of Ansley Willcox,” dated April 28, 1896 (see appendix C). It included a gas-operated furnace with heat delivered to some rooms by hot-air registers and to others through hot-water radiators.

Gas and Electric Service

Before 1896 the house was illuminated with gas fixtures and coal oil lamps. After the 1896 alterations and additions, gas continued to provide light throughout most of the house, but electricity was brought in at that time, apparently for center (ceiling) lights in most of the downstairs rooms and ceil-

162 Appendix B, p. 12.

163 See Cary specifications for masonry, carpentry, heating, and plumbing (appendix C).

ing or wall lights in the upper and lower halls. Photographs taken in 1921 (figs. 7, 10, 21) show that there were electrical wall sockets and electric light fixtures on walls by that time.¹⁶⁴

At the time of President Roosevelt's visits in 1901 the library probably still had gas center lights, gas brackets, and at least one gas table lamp, while the morning room and dining room were lit with electrified center lights and gas brackets. Upstairs, the halls were electrically lighted, the rooms by gas and coal oil.

There was also an elaborate system of speaking tubes and electric bells to facilitate communications between the public rooms, the service wing, and the servants' quarters. These are detailed in Cary's "Specifications for Electrical Bells and Speaking Tubes" (appendix C).

164 Cary, floor plans, "Plumber's Specifications..." and "Electrical Specifications..." (appendix C).

FURNISHING PLAN

INTERPRETIVE OBJECTIVES

The primary reason for the preservation of the Ansley Wilcox house and its establishment as a national historic site is its association with Theodore Roosevelt's accession to the presidency of the United States in September 1901. Site interpretation therefore focuses on the events surrounding the presidential oath-taking in the Wilcoxes' library on September 14, 1901, on the people directly involved in those events, and on the national significance of McKinley's death and Roosevelt's sudden emergence from the shadows of the vice presidency.

Secondary objectives of site interpretation are to tell the history of the house and the Wilcox family, who lived there from 1883 to 1933, and to give visitors some insight into the general temper of the time and place at the turn of the century.

OPERATING PLAN

Several types of on-site interpretation contribute to visitors' understanding of what happened here and how it affected the American people as a whole, as well as those immediately involved:

Audio-visual Program

Before visitors begin their house tour, they see an audio-visual presentation on the events that brought Theodore Roosevelt to the presidency and on his achievements in that office.

Guided Tour

Visitors walk through the house with an interpreter, who talks about the Wilcox family and their house, why it was the scene of Roosevelt's swearing-in, and what it was like at the time.

Exhibits

Changing exhibits illustrate in greater detail certain aspects of the story, such as the Pan-American Exposition, the Wilcox family, the architectural story of the house, and President Roosevelt's later career.

Publications

Visitors can carry away with them a printed guide to the house, as well as more meaty publications on the history of the time and significant personalities associated with the events in Buffalo in September 1901.

Historic Furnishings

The special role of historic furnishings in interpreting Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site is to help visitors visualize events that took place long before their own time. To people who remember Lyndon Johnson's swearing-in on Air Force One after John F. Kennedy's assassination, Theodore Roosevelt's taking the same oath in a private library may be hard to imagine. Refurnishing the actual rooms Theodore Roosevelt briefly dominated by his dramatic presence helps bring the historic moment to life and may increase the impact on the modern visitor of the event's real significance, simply by reinforcing the message presented through other media.

To achieve the primary interpretive objective the following plan recommends furnishing only two rooms approximately to their 1901 appearance: the library and the dining room. Although the morning room served as Roosevelt's office during his visits in 1901, there is insufficient evidence to justify trying to re-create its appearance at that time. Instead, this report recommends that the morning room house a permanent exhibit on the events associated with Roosevelt's stay, an exhibit that would include as its focal point the original desk at which he drafted his first proclamation, and the original draft of that proclamation.

Although there is not enough evidence to support furnishing any of the upstairs rooms to the 1901 period, this report recognizes strong local interest in Mrs. Wilcox and offers three optional approaches to interpreting her bedroom/sitting room (214): (1) leaving it unfurnished, since we do not know how it looked in 1901; (2) exhibiting it as a generic Buffalo lady's bedroom of the 1890s, with the furnishings recently acquired for it by the foundation, perhaps in conjunction with a costume exhibit in the next room; and (3) refurnishing it and room 206 as Mrs. Wilcox's 1921 sitting room or boudoir and bedroom respectively.

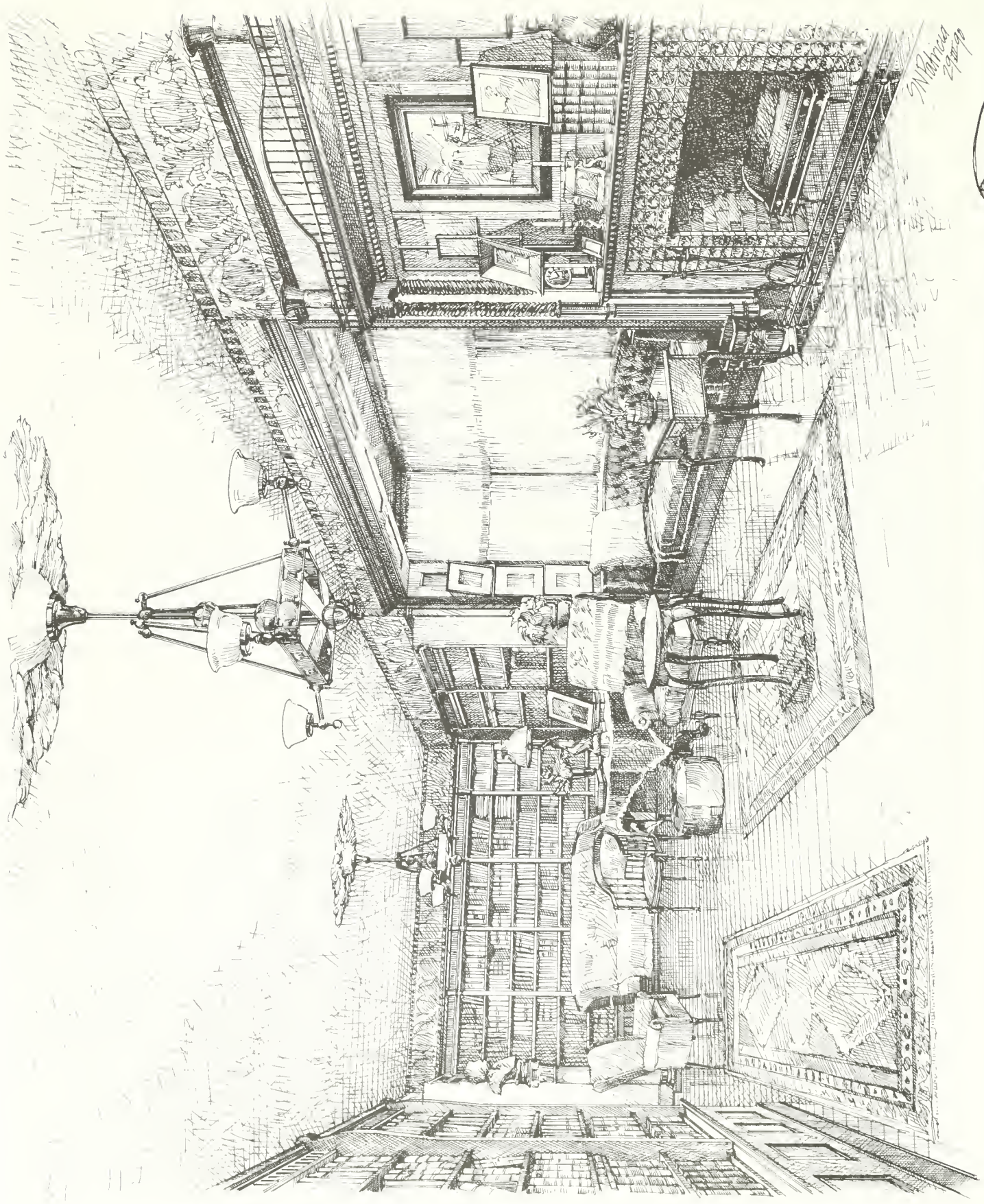
LIBRARY

The original "Furnishing Plan" for the Ansley Wilcox house covered only the library. Prepared in 1969/1970 by Walter S. Dunn, Jr., Director of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, this plan drew its substance from a small group of photographs showing the library shortly after the swearing-in of President Roosevelt, on September 14, 1901; photographs taken in 1921 and 1934; journalistic accounts of the oath-taking; and interviews with several older Buffalonians and family members who knew the house in 1901 or shortly after.

On the basis of this historical and some physical evidence, the room was restored in 1970 to its 1901 appearance, except for the missing north wall for which a glass wall was substituted to permit easier viewing of the room from the hallway.

By donation the site received several original furnishing items from the 1901 library, including the two brass chandeliers, three chairs, and two table lamps, along with period furnishings that resembled what the 1901 photographs showed. Because no funds were available to search out and buy exact duplicates, the foundation's volunteer furnishings committee had to settle sometimes for less close a resemblance than they would have liked, but the overall result was an effective exhibit very close in spirit and style to the room in which President Roosevelt took the presidential oath.

Research for the present report has turned up little new evidence, pictorial or documentary, on the appearance of the library in 1901, so the following list of recommended furnishings is not very different from Walter Dunn's. Most of the items already acquired will be retained; a few need to be replaced with closer look-alikes; some pieces not identified in the Dunn plan need to be acquired to complete the setting.



S. P. ...
29/12/90



LIBRARY

Library Recommended Furnishings			
	Object and Location	Evidence	Recommendation
L.1	BOOKCASES (built-in, on north, east, and south walls)	figures 2, 7; surviving section donated and re-used when shelving was partially restored in 1970 except for sections on the north wall between the doors (now a glass viewing window) and at the west end, where a floor register is located	retain bookcases as restored
L.2	BOOKS (on all shelves)	figures 2-7	use all Wilcox-associated books in the collection, but keep post-1901 volumes in bookcase on north wall, east end, where they cannot be seen; retain other, non-associated pre-1901 volumes in nice bindings; acquire other pre-1901 sets and individual volumes, including Richardson's <i>Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents</i> , 1899 edition, as needed to fill up shelves
L.3	PEDESTAL, marble, with Ionian capital, surmounted by classically draped BUST in bronze or terra cotta (left of east door)	figure 6; Grace Wilcox to Ansley Wilcox, June 7, 1899, from Florence, saying that she had purchased a "head of a lady" and was sending it home with "some other terra cotta things"	retain acquired pedestal; acquire reproduction of classical bronze or terra cotta bust of woman, more appropriate to Mrs. Wilcox's library than the present bust of Eldridge Spalding
L.4	ARMCHAIR, upholstered in black leather, with flowered and fringed ANTIMACASSAR (northeast corner)	figure 2	acquire period chair and antimacassar
L.5	SOFA, fully upholstered in a solid-color fabric, partially covered with a small ORIENTAL RUG (in front of east bookcases)	figures 2, 5	acquire period overstuffed sofa, upholster in green mohair; use a small rug in collection
L.6	small ARMCHAIR, upholstered in a bright floral print on seat and upper back (in front of sofa)	figures 2-5; the original chair was given in 1970 by the estate of Martha Guldner	use the original chair (THRI 70-295); re-cover with a fabric closer to the original (dark on light)

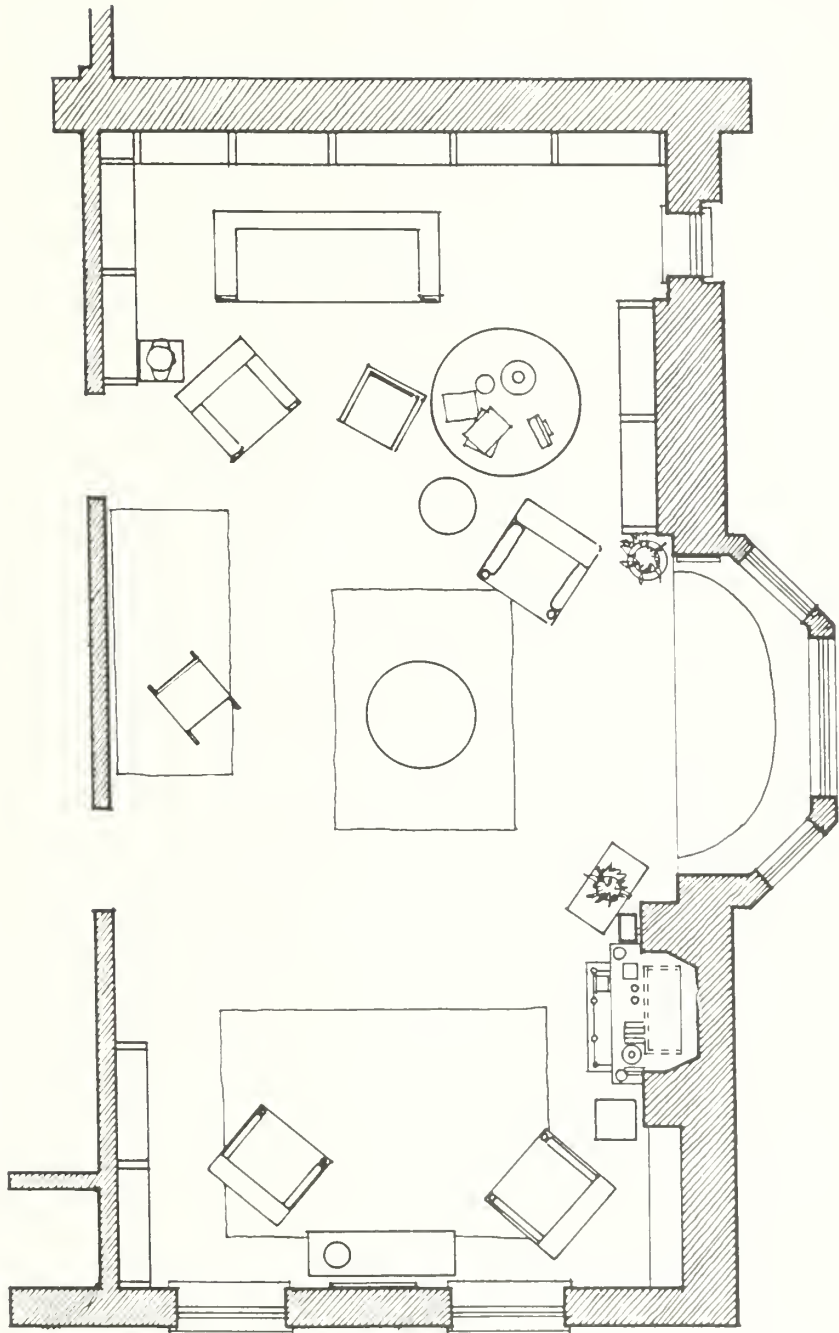
Library Recommended Furnishings			
	Object and Location	Evidence	Recommendation
L.7	CENTER TABLE, round top, pedestal base with four animalistic feet (southeast corner)	figures 2-6	retain acquired table, not original but very similar
L.8	TABLE COVER, square, dark fabric with lighter edging (on table)	figures 2-5; figure 6 shows a different table cover	retain acquired cover
L.9	GAS TABLE LAMP, bronze statuette base (Venus and Cupid), with pierced metal shade (on table)	figures 2-5; in figure 5, the gas pipe can be seen in front of the pile of magazines on the east side of the bay window, just above the plant; a different lamp is shown in figure 6; the original lamp, lacking its shade, was donated in 1970 by the Allentown Association	use original lamp (THRI 70-280) with present reproduction shade
L.10	VASE, glass, with artificial FLOWERS (on table)	figures 2-5	retain vase (not original); fill with silk flowers appropriate to September, such as chrysanthemums, straw flowers, or marigolds
L.11	COVERED JAR, clear glass (on table)	figure 5	retain non-original jar
L.12	PHOTOGRAPH OF DEXTER P. RUMSEY, in mat and very plain, dark wood frame (on table)	figures 2-6	retain reproduction of original
L.13	BOOKS AND MAGAZINES (on table)	figures 2-5	place three pre-1901 books on the left side, and a pile of about six 1901 magazines, such as <i>Harpers</i> or a literary periodical, on the right
L.14	HASSOCK, covered with leather (in front of table)	figures 2-6	retain hassock (not original); reupholster to match easy chair, L.15
L.15	EASY CHAIR, upholstered in brown leather, the back draped with a crocheted ANTIMACASSAR (in front of bay window, left side)	figures 2-5	retain non-original chair and antimacassar

Library Recommended Furnishings			
	Object and Location	Evidence	Recommendation
L.16	TEA TABLE, with round or oval top, cabriole legs (in front of easy chair)	figures 2-5; on this table President Roosevelt and Judge Hazel put their signatures to the official oath of office on September 14, 1901; in 1921 (fig. 7) the same table, covered with a white cloth, was at the other end of the room, probably serving as a tea table	replace the somewhat similar acquired table with a closer duplicate (lower and without a shelf and wavy-edged top), since this is the focal point of the room; on it place a facsimile copy of the official OATH OF OFFICE
L.17	PEDESTAL and BEGONIA PLANT in decorated FLOWER POT with matching SAUCER (left side of bay, behind easy chair)	figures 2-5; a different pedestal and plant appear in figure 6	retain the present pedestal and pot with saucer; acquire silk begonia plant
L.18	PRINTS (3), matted and simply framed (left side panel of the bay)	figures 2-5, subjects possibly unidentifiable, although they look like European etchings	if the subjects cannot be identified, retain the prints acquired by the 1970 restoration
L.19	WINDOW SEAT, the back and seat covered with a tufted, foliate-patterned, green fabric; the seat protected by a small ORIENTAL RUG; at the east end, a large PILLOW covered with a floral design on a light ground (built into the bay)	figures 2-5	retain window seat as reconstructed in 1970, along with the pillow and rug (not original)
L.20	LOWBOY, Queen Anne style (possibly a late 19th century reproduction) with cabriole legs, brass drawer pulls, probably mahogany (between bay and fireplace)	figures 4, 5	acquire similar piece
L.21	TABLE COVER, white, lace or other needlework (on lowboy)	common usage, possibly confirmed by figures 4 and 5	acquire period piece
L.22	tall VASE, silver or brass, with artificial FLOWERS (on lowboy)	figures 4, 5	
L.23	small decorated BOX (on lowboy)	figure 4	retain (not original)
L.24	WASTEBASKET, wicker, square (under lowboy)	figures 4, 5	replace non-original piece with a plainer period basket
L.25	FENDER, brass (in front of fireplace)	figure 4	retain non-original fender

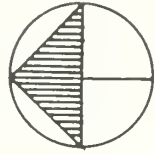
Library Recommended Furnishings			
	Object and Location	Evidence	Recommendation
L.26	FIREPLACE TOOLS AND STAND, brass (left of fireplace)	figure 4	retain non-original pieces
L.27	GRATE, cast iron, with FIREWOOD (in fireplace)	figure 4	use scrap wood, as in illustration 4
L.28	CLOCK, 8-day, glass case with brass frame (left end of mantel)	figure 4; original donated in 1970 by estate of Martha Guldner	retain THRI 70-296 (original)
L.29	PAIR OF CANDLESTICKS, white china or glass, dolphin-shape, with short white CANDLES (on mantel, left)	figure 4	retain fish candlesticks in clear glass (not original)
L.30	PICTURES (2), framed, small, the larger apparently a child's head (on mantel, left, leaning)	figure 4	reproduce two family photographs and frame as in figure 4
L.31	SET OF BOOKS, eight volumes, leather bound, with gilt-decorated spines (mantel, right)	figure 4	use an appropriately decorative set from THRI collection or acquire
L.32	PRINT, plain dark frame, possibly a Charles Dana Gibson drawing of a young woman (on top of books, leaning against overmantel picture)	figure 4	retain non-original print
L.33	VASE, painted china, globular shape (mantel, right)	figure 4	retain non-original vase
L.34	BOOKS (3) (mantel, right end)	figure 4	use three miscellaneous books from THRI collection
L.35	small PICTURE in deep frame (on top of clock, leaning)	figure 4	reproduce a family photograph; acquire appropriate dark wood frame
L.36	MINIATURE PORTRAITS (2) (in right panel of overmantel)	figure 4	retain miniatures
L.37	large PICTURE, a print or oil painting after "Pallas and the Centaur," by Botticelli, in a plain, dark frame and lighter liner (mounted inside center panel of overmantel)	figure 4	acquire reproduction and frame as in figure 4

Library Recommended Furnishings			
	Object and Location	Evidence	Recommendation
L.38	PAIR OF VASES, silver or brass with animalistic feet, flared top of dark glass (possibly insert) (on top of overmantel, behind gallery)	figure 4	acquire similar period vases
L.39	WOOD CARRIER, brass or wood (right of fireplace)	no evidence for 1901; figure 7 (1921) shows a rather plain-looking wood carrier that could have been of brass or wood	acquire period piece in brass or wood similar to the one in figure 7
L.40	PIER TABLE, serpentine front, square tapered legs, string inlay, ca.1800 or late 19th century revival piece (west wall, between windows)	figure 4, barely visible at lower right; figure 6 (ca.1901) shows it at left of fireplace, where the lowboy (L.20, above) stood on September 14, 1901	acquire period pier table, early or late 19th century
L.41	TABLE COVER, lace or crocheted (on pier table)	common usage	acquire period table cover
L.42	KEROSENE LAMP, clear glass spiral column base and font, fabric shade (on pier table)	figure 6 (ca.1901); original donated in 1970 by Margaret E. Scheu	retain THRI 70-163 (original, with reproduced shade)
L.43	PICTURE (west wall, over pier table)	no evidence for 1901; in 1921 (fig. 7) there was an oil portrait of an unidentified woman	use the portrait of Grace Rumsey Wilcox
L.44	ARMCHAIR, sway back, low arms, upholstered overall to match the sofa (L.5, above) (in front of southwest window)	figure 6 (ca.1901) shows this at the east end of the room, where the sofa was on September 14, 1901	acquire similar period chair and reupholster
L.45	ARMCHAIR, curved open arms, late Empire style, seat and back covered with a light, floral fabric (in front of northwest window)	figure 6 (ca.1901) shows this in the center of the room, where the tea table (L.16) was on September 14, 1901; original chair donated in 1969 by Laura C. Naher	retain original chair (THRI 69-208); reupholster in fabric more like that in figure 6
L.46	CHILD'S ROCKING CHAIR, Windsor style (north wall, between doors)	figure 6 (ca.1901), in center of room; original (?) chair donated in 1969 by Mrs. Allan Gushue	retain donated chair (THRI 69-207)
L.47	RUGS (3), Near Eastern rugs, roughly 5-6 feet by 3-4 feet	two appear in figure 2-5 and a third in figure 6	use rugs in THRI collection or acquire period rugs; the largest rug to go at the west end

Library Recommended Furnishings			
	Object and Location	Evidence	Recommendation
L.48	CHANDELIERS (2), brass, with etched and frosted glass shades	figures 2-8; originals sold in 1959, returned (minus the original shades) to the house in 1970 as a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Hickey	retain original chandeliers (THRI 70-298) and non-original shades (THRI 1063r)
L.49	CURTAINS, light brown, perfectly plain fabric with a satiny finish (bay windows and west windows)	figure 5; color remembered by Mrs. Plimpton and Mrs. Patch; no information on how the west window curtains hung before 1921 (fig. 7)	retain the curtains made in 1970 for the restoration, hung straight in the bay and tied back in the tall west windows
L.50	WINDOW SHADES (2), ivory, fringed and with a decorative band across the bottom edge (west windows)	exterior photograph, 1901 (fig. 17a)	reproduce
L.51	WINDOW SHADES (3), ivory, plain (bay windows)	figure 5	retain shades installed in 1970



N



FLOOR PLAN - LIBRARY

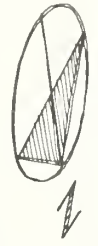
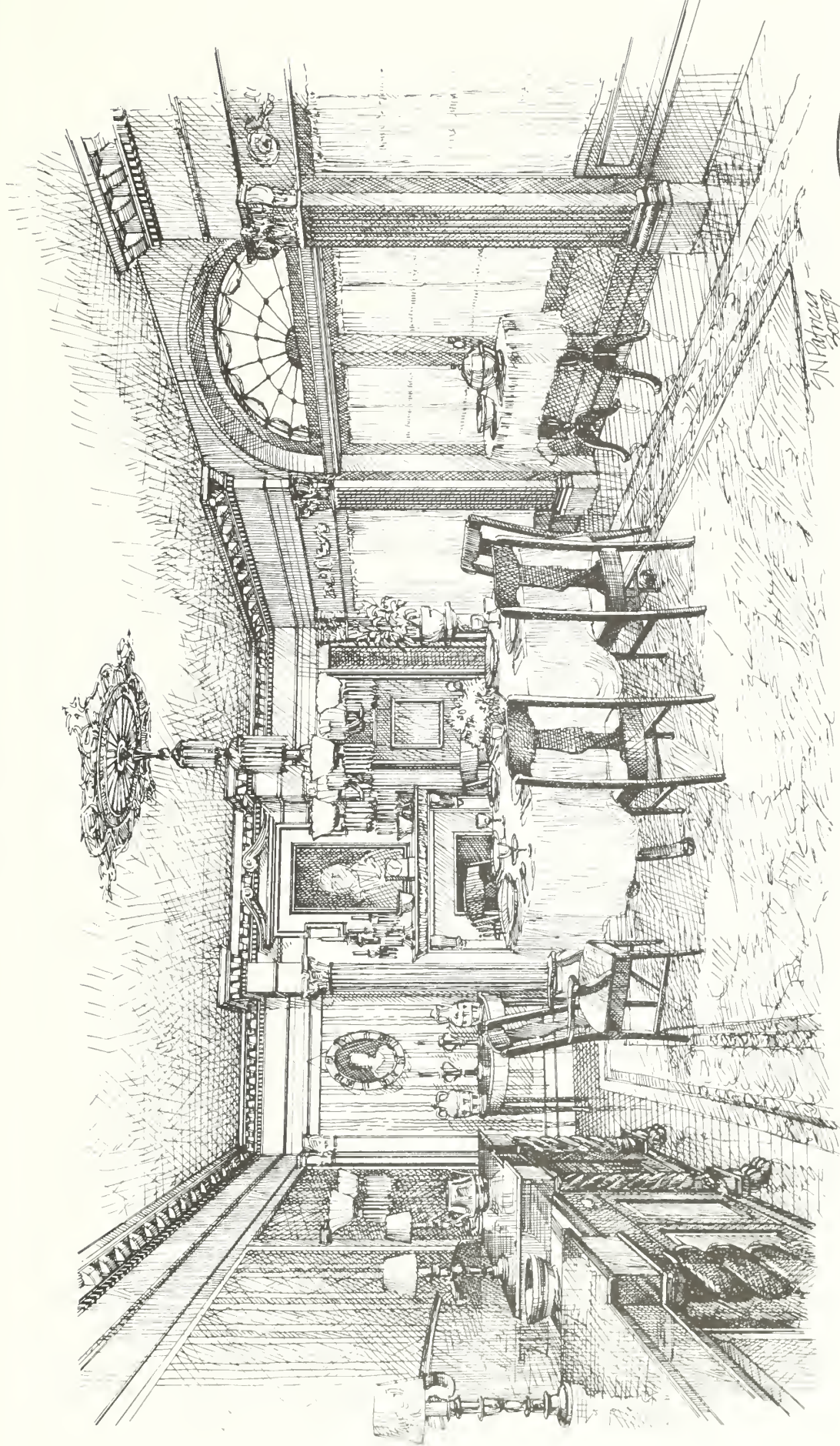
DINING ROOM

A “revised furnishing plan” for the dining room was prepared by Walter S. Dunn, Jr., Director, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society and submitted to the National Park Service on July 20, 1973. The evidence then available included one 1921 photograph (fig. 10); two interviews with Mary Wilcox Plimpton, who visited and stayed in the house often from about 1907 to 1920; and analyses of the furnishings in the 1921 photograph by two Buffalo antique dealers, Allain Ramsay and Thomas Mileham. Dunn concluded that the dining room furnishings probably changed little between 1901 and 1921, since nearly everything in the room in the 1921 photograph could have dated from the late 1890s.

The room was restored in 1973 to its original appearance, except for the doorway in the east wall that led to the butler’s pantry. This doorway had been closed up in the 1930s and the door installed in a new doorway on the north wall of the dining room. To complete the restoration, the north door should be removed and the butler’s pantry door restored.

Furnishings recommended in Dunn’s 1973 furnishing plan were acquired by donation; none were original to the house except for some china and silver. Four family portraits, all but one dating from after 1901, have more recently been added to the dining room without any evidence that they originally hung in that room.

The following recommendations are based on the same sources used by Walter Dunn, plus a recently discovered second 1921 photograph (fig. 9) showing the northeast corner (not shown in the other photograph) and interviews with Mrs. Porter Norton and a former dining room maid, Eileen O’Keefe. These new sources generally confirm Dunn’s conclusion that the 1901 dining room must have looked much the same twenty years later. The following list of recommended furnishings incorporates most of the pieces acquired since 1973, with a few additions based on the new evidence.



N. Prince
1907

DINING ROOM

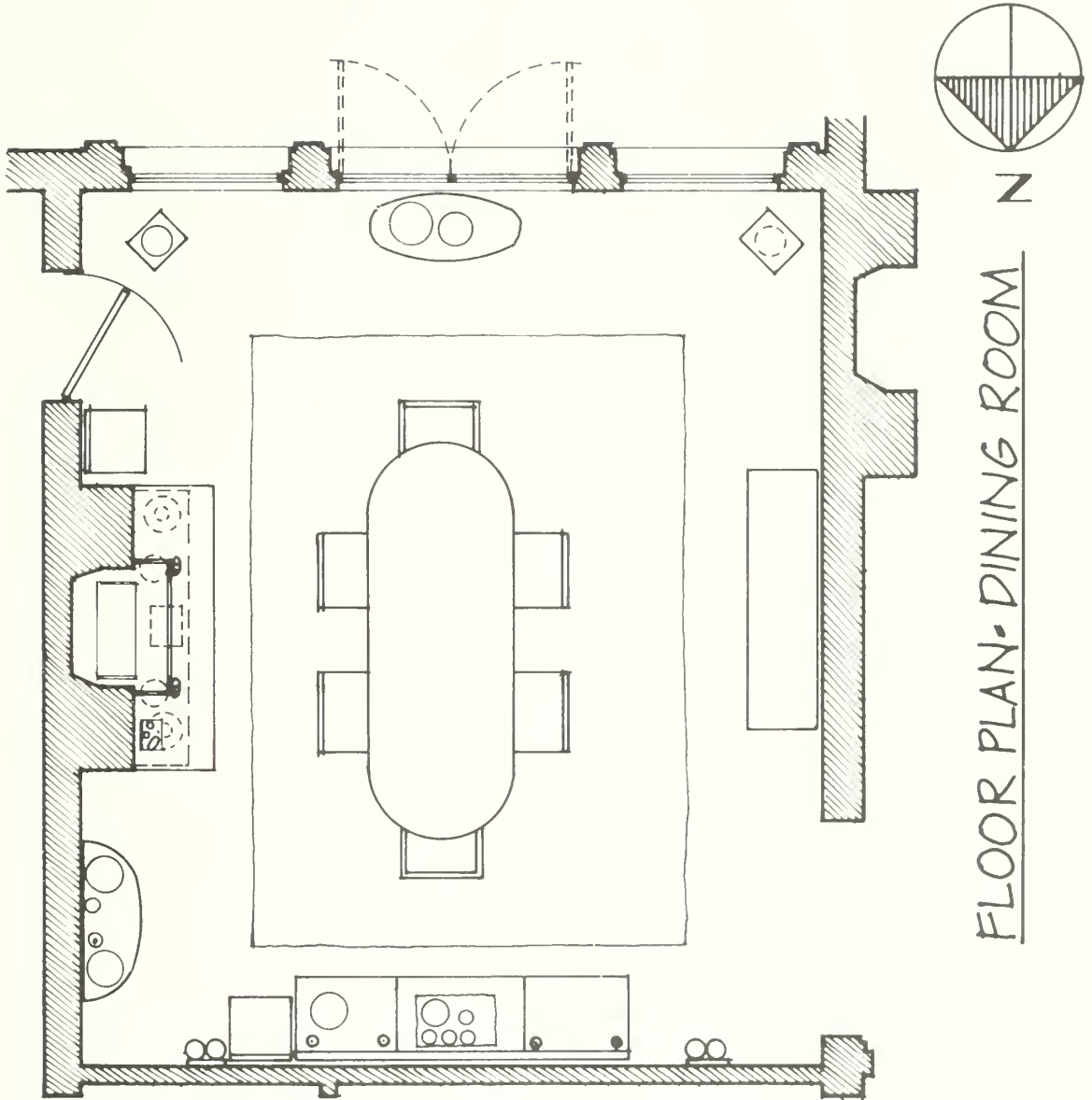
Dining Room Recommended Furnishings			
	Object and Location	Evidence	Recommendation
DR.1	SIDEBOARD, ca.1830-50, mahogany, with center section and two raised end sections, mirrored backboard, twisted columns and paw feet, brass pulls (north wall, centered)	figure 9; lot 1127, auction catalogue, 1935	acquire period sideboard of similar type
DR.2	SILVER CANDLESTICKS, set of four, fitted with OIL RESERVOIRS and PAPER SHADES (two on each end of sideboard)	figure 9	acquire period candlesticks fitted with oil reservoirs and shades; omit if security is a problem
DR.3	SIDEBOARD CLOTH, probably lace (on center section)	figure 9	acquire period lace cloth
DR.4	PORTRAIT OF ANSLEY WILCOX as a little boy (north wall, left of sideboard)	Mrs. Norton remembered this hanging in the dining room; since it does not appear in the 1921 photographs, it is assumed that it was either here or on the west wall, out of the camera's line of sight	retain original portrait
DR.5	SCONCES (2), two-light gas fixtures, brass, with drops and frosted and etched glass reflectors (on north wall, left and right of sideboard)	one shows to the right of the sideboard in figure 9	acquire period or reproduction sconces and shades
DR.6	HALF-ROUND END TABLE, ca. 1790-1800 or late 19th century, mahogany (east wall, left of fireplace)	figure 9	acquire period table
DR.7	CANDLESTICKS, pair, brass or silver (?), possibly Italian, 18th century (on end table)	figure 9	acquire similar period candlesticks; insert natural colored candles
DR.8	COVERED POTS, pair, European porcelain, probably 18th century (on end table)	figure 9	acquire similar period pieces

Dining Room Recommended Furnishings			
	Object and Location	Evidence	Recommendation
DR.9	OIL PORTRAIT OF FRANCES WILCOX, by Evelyn Rumsey Cary, 1902	in 1921 a later portrait of Frances Wilcox, by Cecilia Beaux, hung in this spot (fig. 9); the earlier portrait is recommended since it shows Ansley Wilcox's favored younger daughter about the time of Roosevelt's visits	use Cary portrait of Frances Wilcox, hung by two wires from picture rail, as in figure 9.
DR.10	FENDER, brass, with paw feet and open cutwork (in front of fireplace)	figure 10	acquire period fender
DR.11	COAL GRATE, brass	figures 9, 10; original still in place	retain original grate
DR.12	FIREPLACE TOOLS AND STAND, brass (left side of hearth)	figures 9, 10	retain acquired set
DR.13	CANDELABRA, pair, five-light, glass, with drops (mantel)	figures 9, 10; thought to be by Hersee (Allain Ramsay, in furnishing plan, 1973)	retain acquired pair (not original)
DR.14	BOWLS, pair, widely flaring (mantel)	figures 9, 10; thought by Allain Ramsay to be aureen (gold) glass in the style of Fred Carter at Steuben, 1900-14; Tom Mileham, another dealer, thought they were Chinese porcelain, red or blue	acquire period bowls of similar shape
DR.15	CLOCK, square case with brass handle (mantel, center)	figures 9, 10	acquire period clock
DR.16	OIL PORTRAIT (mounted in overmantel panel), subject unknown	figure 9, portrait almost entirely obscured by chandelier	use Urquhart Wilcox's ca.1910 oil portrait of his and Ansley's mother, Frances Louisa Ansley Wilcox; although painted after 1901, the portrait shows Mrs. Wilcox as she must have looked about that time
DR.17	PEDESTAL and PLANTER, white stone or composition, with relief decoration (southeast corner)	figures 9, 10; Allain Ramsay thought the planter might be the work of Weller, ca.1880-90	acquire period pedestal and planter; plant artificial ivy, trained on a thin rod

Dining Room Recommended Furnishings			
	Object and Location	Evidence	Recommendation
DR.18	SERVING TABLE, mahogany, oval top with two 2-legged pedestals (in front of French doors)	figure 10; probably also the table on which Ansley Wilcox used to take his late, separate breakfast while others were having lunch at the big table (Plimpton)	acquire a period table more like the original
DR.19	TABLE COVER , round, embroidered (on serving table)	figure 10	acquire similar period cloth
DR.20	SOUP TUREEN, LADLE, SOUP BOWLS (8), NAPKIN	common usage	acquire period pieces matching table china
DR.21	PEDESTAL, square, marble, and PLANTER, oblong, with relief decoration (southwest corner)	figure 10	acquire similar pedestal and planter, artificial ivy plant
DR.22	CHINA CABINET, mahogany, with arched top, glass doors with fretwork in the Chinese Chippendale style, cabinet below; probably a Colonial revival piece of the 1890s (west wall, south end)	figure 10; inventory of Grace R. Wilcox estate; lot 1141 (curio cabinet), auction catalogue, 1935	retain; restore base
DR.23	CONTENTS OF CHINA CABINET	figure 10; although the objects in the cabinet cannot be seen clearly, it is apparent that they were very miscellaneous—odd dishes, little vases, etc.—not the dishes used on the dining room table which were stored in the butler’s pantry	since the pieces originally in the cabinet are gone, use other pieces of Wilcox china in the site collection (THRI 73.564 and 73.565), a silver tray with the initials of Daniel Hand Wilcox, an oriental brass and copper oil lamp (THRI 81.6.10) sold at the 1935 auction, and any other small curios with a Wilcox association
DR.24	EXTENSION DINING TABLE, round, with several leaves, ca.1890s	Grace Wilcox letter of 1899 mentioning a “round top” table with two leaves; the 1921 photographs show a square top extension table Allain Ramsay thought might have been made about 1900 by Hersee or by Burkey and Gay of Rochester	retain non-original, acquired table

Dining Room Recommended Furnishings			
	Object and Location	Evidence	Recommendation
DR.25	DINING CHAIRS (8)	figures 9, 10; opinions of dealers were divided on whether these were 18th century chairs or ca.1900 revival pieces made by Hersee or Burkey and Gay	retain set of non-original chairs; place six around the dining table, one next to the sideboard, and one against the west wall
DR.26	LUNCHEON SETTING FOR SIX	on September 14, 1901, President Roosevelt lunched with the Wilcoxes before the swearing-in. Besides the president and Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, those present appear to have been George L. Williams, in whose carriage the president had come from the station; William Loeb, the president's private secretary; and William H. Chapin, commander of the presidential escort; Wilcox sat at the north end of the table and Roosevelt faced him, with his back to the windows (see <i>Buffalo Courier</i> , September 15, 1901, and Patch interview, 1969)	retain the non-original place settings and table linen
DR.27	RUG, probably an American Wilton, approximately 9 feet by 14 feet, blue and buff	figures 9, 10; former waitress Eileen O'Keefe remembered a blue rug in 1930 and blue wallpaper was remembered by others	acquire a period rug or a modern rug with a blue ground and similar or comparable pattern
DR.28	CHANDELIER, five-light, brass and glass, with drops and etched, frosted shades, ca.1896	figures 9, 10	retain non-original chandelier acquired about 1973
DR.29	CURTAINS (6 panels), plain white sheers on brass rods (south windows and French doors)	figure 10	replace lace curtains (not original) with plain sheer curtains
DR.30	WINDOW SHADES (2), ivory, with overall floral decoration (for windows only)	figure 11 (ca.1901)	reproduce painted window shades

Dining Room Recommended Furnishings			
	Object and Location	Evidence	Recommendation
DR.31	AWNINGS, striped canvas, possibly blue or green and white (over windows and terrace doors)	figure 11; the color may have matched that of the dark window framing	although not strictly part of the dining room furnishings, the reproduced awnings would add to the visual impact of the room, especially in the summer



MORNING ROOM

Although this room served as Theodore Roosevelt's temporary office during his two visits in September 1901 and thus has significance only second to the room in which he took the oath, there is insufficient evidence on how it was furnished in 1901 to justify refurnishing it to that period. The available evidence was well analyzed in William Seale's 1986 furnishing plan for the Morning Room, but his plan involved too much conjecture to meet National Park Service refurnishing policies. Even to re-create the 1921 setting (fig. 12), if that were desirable, would be extremely difficult since many of the details are missing or undecipherable and few of the original furnishings have survived.

The interpretive objectives of Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site would be better served if the Morning Room were used to display documents and artifacts bearing directly on the story of Theodore Roosevelt's dramatic succession to the presidency and especially that event's relationship to the residence of the Ansley Wilcoxes. Presenting that part of the site's history within the confines of a room associated with those events would reinforce the impact of the furnished library and dining room without doing indignity to the morning room itself, provided the exhibits were designed with the room's distinctive architecture in mind.

The focal point of this exhibit, in the center of the room, might well be Ansley Wilcox's 18th century desk at which Theodore Roosevelt sat while drafting his proclamation of President McKinley's death and a national day of mourning. The surviving draft of his proclamation (or a facsimile) could be displayed on the desk.

Other items for display might include a facsimile of the presidential oath, signed by President Roosevelt and Judge Hazel, along with the original blotter showing their names in reverse; photographs and sketches taken at the time of the inauguration; photographs of people significantly involved in the day's events; original newspaper and magazine articles about the events; and so on, the focus remaining throughout on the events of September 1901. If other furnishings associated with the Morning Room about 1901 become available, they might also be placed in the room, provided that this can be done without detracting from the effectiveness of the exhibit.

Exhibits on other aspects of the time and place, such as the Pan-American Exposition, McKinley's and Roosevelt's administrations, the Wilcox family, and the house itself, should be located in another part of the house.

If this plan is followed, no furnishings will be required for the morning room except plain ivory window shades and plain beige curtains similar to those in the library.

MRS. WILCOX'S BEDROOM

In 1983 the foundation, in response to friendly pressure from its public, undertook to restore and refurnish the southeast bedroom as Mrs. Wilcox's bedroom. Available evidence included the original 1896 Cary floor plan, showing a bed in the northeast corner and gas brackets on the west wall, south of the bathroom door; two photographs (figs. 21 and 22), taken in 1921, when this room and the northeast room were Mrs. Wilcox's sitting room and bedroom; the 1933 inventory of Grace R. Wilcox's estate; and suggestions from Mrs. Plimpton, Ansley Wilcox's niece.

Assisted by a grant from the Theodore Roosevelt Association and with good community support, the foundation's volunteer committee acquired furnishings for the room by gift, loan, and purchase, mostly pieces used by other Buffalo families. A few pieces have a Wilcox association: a sewing table (THRI 73-735), given by the niece of Mrs. Wilcox's upstairs maid; a Victorian parlor table (THRI 81.69), possibly purchased at the 1935 auction; an octagonal center table (THRI 81.1.1), given to a friend by Frances Wilcox Cooke; a photograph of a sculptured relief, "Morning," by Palmer (THRI 81.61.2); and an oil painting, still-life with roses, signed E.V.C.W. (THRI 81.61.1), given by Mrs. Leona Dworzinowski, who attended the 1935 auction.

While the restored bedroom is very attractive and filled with mostly 19th century furniture from the area, it is not, in my opinion, correct to call it "Mrs. Wilcox's bedroom," as if it accurately reflected Grace Wilcox's taste. The only evidence available, in fact, tells us that, in 1921, Mrs. Wilcox favored rather heavy Italian furniture in her bedroom and more simple Empire or modern furniture in her sitting room. For the earlier period, around 1901, we simply do not know how she furnished her bedroom or even which of the two rooms she was then using as a bedroom.

In these circumstances, there seem to be at least three options.

The first option is to leave this room unfurnished, since we can only guess how it was furnished or even used in 1901.

The second option is to retain the furnishings acquired by the foundation, but interpret the room as a generic lady's bedroom of the late 19th century, not identified in any way with Grace Rumsey Wilcox. This might be tied in, ex-

plicitly, with the site's Costume Resource Center, perhaps with development of a costume exhibit in the adjoining room.

The third approach would be to re-create Mrs. Wilcox's distinctive bedroom-sitting room suite as it appeared in 1921 for which photographs provide good evidence. Since the room is so far removed, spatially, from the 1901 furnished rooms downstairs, it should not be confusing to visitors to find a later room upstairs, provided tour guides and literature make clear the time difference and the reason for it.

While it would be an interesting project to re-create Mrs. Wilcox's 1921 bedroom-sitting room, the interpretive return would scarcely justify the considerable expense involved, perhaps \$50,000-\$75,000. No plan of recommended furnishings is included in this report; if needed, the Division of Historic Furnishings, Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service, could prepare one on the evidence in the two 1921 photographs.

The immediate choice lies between the first two options:

1. If all interpretation is geared to 1901, the bedroom cannot be refurnished without a high degree of conjecture and should therefore, by National Park Service standards, remain unfurnished.
2. If, on the other hand, interpretation on the second floor of the house can be effectively divorced from that on the first floor, then option two may be viable within National Park Service guidelines, allowing the foundation to retain the furnished bedroom as part of an interpretive program not directly related to the inaugural theme.

FURNISHINGS* MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION

This section recommends housekeeping and curatorial procedures to ensure the integrity of historic artifacts in a historic house museum. These recommendations and procedures accompany the Historic Furnishings Report to guide the reader to detailed sources and are not intended to stand alone as an authority on housekeeping and curatorial methods.

As in all National Park Service historic sites, the care of collections should meet National Park Service standards and procedures as outlined in NPS-28, Special Directive 80-1 (Rev. 1986), the *Manual for Museums*, revised *Museum Handbook* (Part I, Museum Collections, available early 1989; Part II, Museum Records, 1984; and Part III, Collections Use, available 1989), and the site's Collection Management Plan. These primary sources, the sources listed below, and audiovisual programs available through the Curatorial Services Division, WASO, provide the basic concepts of curatorial care.

National Trust Manual for Housekeeping, by Her-
mione Sandwith and Sheila Stainton, published
by Viking Press.

Care of Antiques and Historical Collections, by Per
Gulbeck and Bruce MacLeish, published by the
American Association for State and Local His-
tory.

Cyclical Maintenance for Historic Buildings, by
Henry Chambers, available at NPS sites.

The Environment

Relative humidity and temperature, light, dust and pollution, insects and rodents, and fire and security require special attention in the historic house museum environment. The Curatorial Services Division, WASO, and regional curators provide guidance to maintain established acceptable relative humidity, temperature, and light levels and supply advice to eliminate insect and rodent infestations and to improve fire and security detection systems. Consult these offices and the Division of Conservation, Harpers Ferry Center, for solutions to curatorial problems that you may encounter.

* These draft recommendations and procedures are currently being reviewed by the Chief Curator, WASO, her staff, and the regional curators. Final recommendations and procedures will be provided when available.

Relative Humidity and Temperature

Special Directive 80-1 specifies recommended maximum and minimum relative humidity and temperature levels:

Relative Humidity: 65% maximum; fluctuations not to exceed +/-3% per month

Temperature: 18-20°C (64-68°F) in exhibit spaces, not to exceed 24°C (75°F)

Retain permanent logs for each furnished room listing hygrothermograph data. Include the date and time of entry, the temperature, relative humidity (RH) percent, monthly RH range and RH average, and notes pertaining to weather conditions, climate control system failures, unusual openings or closings of the structure, unusual visitation, or power failures.

Record hygrothermograph data weekly, and calibrate hygrothermographs every two weeks, or after climatic changes, using a sling psychrometer. Record adjustments made on data sheets and hygrothermographs. Seek assistance when questions arise concerning the operation or maintenance of hygrothermographs.

Accumulate at least one year's reliable temperature and humidity data to establish a target RH range and make judgments about climate control needs. The regional curator can assist the site in evaluating

readings and in considering methods for stabilizing relative humidity and temperature levels.

Light

NPS museum standards specify the maximum visible light levels acceptable during hours of operation: 5 footcandles (50 lux) for textiles, watercolors, paper wallpapers, dyed leather, and most natural history objects; 15 footcandles (150 lux) for oil and tempera paintings, undyed leather, horn, bone, ivory, oriental lacquer, wood, and all other organic materials; and 30 footcandles (300 lux) for metal, stone, ceramics, and glass.

Record morning and afternoon ultraviolet and visible light readings quarterly in a permanent log, along with notations on weather conditions and times and locations of readings. Monitoring instruments may be purchased or are available on loan from the regional curator or the Curatorial Services Division, WASO. The regional curator can assist the site in evaluating readings and in considering methods for reducing excessive light levels.

Open blinds and turn on room lights before tours begin or while cleaning, rather than as part of site opening procedures. Use shades and shutters to reduce light levels when the museum is not open to the public.

Report light damage evidence to site curator.

Dust and Pollution

Reduce dust and contaminants through proper maintenance of air handling systems. Clean filters weekly and change them when necessary. Keep windows closed.

Establish written housekeeping procedures to routinely remove dust from furnishings to prevent serious conservation problems. Be aware that frequent dusting wears finishes on furniture. Consult regional curators, the Curatorial Services Division, WASO, or the Division of Conservation, Harpers Ferry Center, for recommended frequencies.

Lay runners for visitor circulation and vacuum these runners frequently. Discourage visitors from walking on historic carpets, thus carrying contaminants into the furnished areas.

Insects and Rodents

Maintain housekeeping schedules, in both furnished areas and staff areas. Remove trash from staff areas daily. Prohibit food in furnished areas.

Establish a monitoring and inspection program and maintain ongoing documentation of signs of infestations. Insect trap adhesive may be used to monitor for the presence of pests. Collect specimens and

report any pest activity to the site curator. Regional Integrated Pest Management Coordinators provide assistance with establishing programs and inform parks of pest removal procedures and regulations.

When plants or food are recommended furnishings in the structure, use imitations to reduce the risk of insect infestations or water damage.

Fire and Security

Develop written emergency action plans to address procedures for staff and visitor evacuation. Discuss the feasibility of object salvage in the event of a fire or any emergency, and establish priorities for the removal of significant items. Consult local fire departments to assist in developing these priorities and to discuss fire risks and structural and object concerns.

Up-to-date fire protection recommendations are provided in revised National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 911, *Protection of Museums and Museum Collections*, 1985.

Enforce smoking regulations, and NFPA 913, *Protection of Historic Structures and Sites*, 1987.

Housekeeping Procedures And Suggested Frequencies

Historic house museums consist of a variety of materials and textures; each requires special consideration when cleaning. This section discusses general procedures for common materials found in collections. Consult with regional curators, the Curatorial Services Division, WASO, or the Division of Conservation, Harpers Ferry Center, before cleaning problematic objects or areas.

Baskets. Use cotton gloves; hold object by base, not by rim. Lift dust particles away from basket, not rubbed across basket, using fine camel-hair brush. When possible, clean on a mild, clear day so that baskets can be taken one at a time outside for dusting. If dusted inside, dust flies onto other objects. Replace all objects in their original location.

Books. Dust with a vacuum cleaner and long-bristled brush or with a clean cloth. Handle books as illustrated in *National Trust Manual of Housekeeping*. Check with a conservator before applying British Museum leather dressing or other material to leather bindings. (See also *Manual for Museums*, pp. 253-254.)

Brass. If not lacquered, remove, polish with non-abrasive cleaner, and spray with a lacquer such as Krylon. Then dust and damp clean. Do not use

brass polish while hardware is attached to furniture. If necessary, set a template behind the brass before cleaning. (*Manual for Museums*, p. 249; *National Trust Manual of Housekeeping*, p. 88.)

Carpet Runners. Vacuum all carpet runners and straighten them as needed so that visitors do not walk on historic carpeting underneath and runners are not bunched up against furnishings. Change vacuum bags when 1/3 full to assure efficient cleaning and avoid transmitting excess dust particles. Do not bump furnishings while vacuuming.

Ceiling and Walls. When dusting high beams, ceilings, or whenever creating lots of dust, cover upholstered furniture and textiles with sheets. Lift away cobwebs encountered in daily cleaning with a long-handled, soft-haired brush. On redwood, cover brush with cotton cover before cleaning. Stucco or tilework can be swept with bare bristles.

Ceramics. More damage to ceramics occurs from mishandling than all other causes combined. Do not handle ceramic objects more than necessary. Dust glazed pieces with an untreated cloth. Use a lens brush to clean irregular molded surfaces. When necessary, wash pieces that are not cracked in warm de-ionized water with a mild vinegar-water solution and dry thoroughly. (*Manual for Museums*, pp. 254-255; *National Trust Manual of Housekeeping*, pp. 55-56.) Dust unglazed or porous ceramics with a bristle

brush. Do not try to wash. Replace dishes and pottery in correct locations on shelves or tables and place protective tissue or corrugated board under items. Hold items at bases, not by handles.

Copper. Polish only if tarnished. Use Noxon or similar product approved by the museum curator. Remove all residue. Do not buff to a brilliant shine, but leave dull. Protect surface with a thin layer of microcrystalline wax applied with a cotton cloth. Replace objects in their original locations.

Fireplaces. Sweep and damp mop hearths as needed. See *Manual for Museums*, pp. 241-243, and *National Trust Manual of Housekeeping*, pp. 12, 114, 177, 178, 181.

Furniture, Finished Wood. Use cotton cloth with lightly applied "Endust" (or substitute approved by museum curator). Allow cloth to dry before dusting. Carefully dust all carved reliefs, using a long-handled cotton swab. Occasionally wax lightly with paste wax.

Glassware. Dust with a clean cloth. Wash when necessary using nonionic detergent and warm water. Do not use detergent on gilded or painted glass. See *Manual for Museums*, p. 255, and *National Trust Manual of Housekeeping*, p. 56.

Ironwork. Dust with a soft, untreated cotton cloth.

Lamp Shades. Dust shades very lightly with soft camel-hair brush. Lift dust from shades; do not scrape particles across surface.

Leather. Use untreated soft, cotton cloth. Change dust rags whenever they become slightly soiled. Unless flaking, painted leather can be dusted once a week.

Light Fixtures. Clean chandeliers with soft brush and change all light bulbs annually. Dust metal light fixtures with soft, untreated cloth.

Paintings, Oil. Do not attempt to dust or clean the surface of a painting as irreparable damage may occur. A painting in need of cleaning should be sent to a conservator. See *National Trust Manual of Housekeeping*, p. 256.

Picture Frames. Dust picture and mirror frames using camel-hair brush with strokes that lift particles; avoid scraping dust particles against frame. Dust gold leaf frames annually and other frames twice monthly. Clean mirrors and glass over paintings very carefully with cloth dampened with equal parts of denatured alcohol, distilled water, and clear vinegar.

Pottery. See "Ceramics."

Silver. Dust with clean cloth; wash when necessary using nonionic detergent, and dry thoroughly. Polish with Goddard's Long Term Silver Cloth. Heavily tarnished silver may be dipped in Goddard's Silver Dip or Long Term Silver Foam, then dried and polished. Coat silver and silverplate with lacquer to inhibit further tarnish and corrosion. (See *Manual for Museums*, p. 258 [but be cautioned against washing], and *National Trust Manual for Housekeeping*, pp. 107-108.)

Tableware, common. Knives, forks, and spoons were commonly made of a composite of wooden handles and steel tangs and blades. Wash and dry thoroughly, removing rust with 600 emery paper; add a coat of lacquer to metal. Dust as necessary. See *Manual for Museums*, p. 255, and *National Trust Manual for Housekeeping*, p. 114.

Textiles. Vacuum stable upholstered furniture and historic carpets and draperies gently using a soft brush attachment and screens. Reduce the suction and/or use protective screens if any upholstery cloth is fragile or degraded. Work dust gently out of corners, pleats, and tufts with a clean brush attachment. The museum curator must approve protective screens before using. Always wear cotton booties whenever stepping on a carpeted area.

Dust historic curtains and draperies covering first with a nylon screen, then using a low-suction port-

able vacuum. Do **not** dry clean or wash except under the supervision of a conservator. Rotate drapes one panel to the right during annual cleaning. Because some panel lengths vary, rotate so that lengths match.

Vacuum bedspreads and table runners with hand vacuum, using fine mesh plastic screen (edged with linen tape) as a protective barrier between fabric and vacuum. If moving textiles, they should be draped across both arms and spread flat on a clean sheet on the floor to accomplish cleaning. Do not damage stitching or fringes while cleaning.

Windows. Dust and wash as needed. Clean ultraviolet filters as described in the *Manual for Museums*, p. 329, "Plastic." See also *National Trust Manual for Housekeeping*, pp. 21, 25, 226-227.

Housekeeping Schedule

Daily: Vacuum floors and baseboards.

Damp wipe surfaces extensively handled by visitors (room barriers, entrance and exit door handles).

Weekly: Dust wood furniture with a clean cotton cloth sprayed with Endust. Dust all parts of the piece including the out-of-the-way places. Use a soft cotton swab if necessary (Conserve 0 Gram 7/8).

Dust ceramic, glass, paper, and other small objects on open display, using a clean dry cotton cloth. Use an artist's brush on intricately decorated objects and art objects.

Vacuum leather materials, baskets, books, and parchment-type lamp shades, using a gentle suction and a plastic screen held securely against the objects to protect them from the suction. Wear clean cotton gloves. Examine fur materials to see if vacuuming is needed. Vacuum, using a plastic mesh screen, only when necessary.

Dust metal objects, using a clean, dry cotton cloth. Always wear clean cotton gloves. Clean soiled gloves in Ivory; rinse and dry.

Vacuum hearths, mantels, and fireplaces.

Check for evidence of insects and rodents (see *Manual for Museums*, pp. 71-77, and *Conserve 0 Gram 3/10*). Renew traps as needed.

Monthly: Vacuum window frames, shades, curtains, and lighting fixtures.

Clean any plexiglas, using a non-static cleanser and a clean, dry cotton cloth.

Vacuum upholstery on historic furniture, using gentle suction and a clean upholstery attachment. Fragile areas should be vacuumed through a plastic mesh screen to decrease strain. Always vacuum in the direction of the nap if the material has a nap.

Vacuum historic carpets and rugs in the direction of the nap, using the upholstery attachment and a plastic screen where necessary.

Dust picture frames (including the tops), using a lens brush; blow dust off carved gilt frames, using a small ear syringe (do not touch the frame).

Glass on mirrors, pictures and in cabinets may be damp wiped (if needed), using a sponge dipped in glass cleaner (Conserve 0 Gram 8/2) and squeezed almost dry. Do not let the moisture get on the frame or under the glass.

Refold folded textiles along different lines to reduce stress.

Vacuum walls; consult a conservator before cleaning historic wallpaper.
Vacuum tops of doors, bookcases, and other ledges in reach of the floor.
Examine furnishings to determine if any active deterioration is occurring and if specialized conservation treatment is needed.
Calibrate the hygrothermographs using a sling or aspirated psychrometer.

Semi-Annual: Vacuum ceiling, tops of cabinets, and other high wall areas requiring ladders.
Wash and dry windows.
Vacuum heating system vents.

Annual: Inspect metal objects for corrosion, rust, or tarnish; treat if necessary. Large metal objects such as refrigerators, heaters, and stoves should be inspected and cleaned if needed.
Inspect ceramic and glass objects to determine if washing is necessary (Conserve 0 Gram 8/2).
Clean woodwork by wiping with a clean, damp cloth; dry immediately.
Take light readings (both visible and ultraviolet) of objects on exhibit to see if light is within the acceptable range.
Inspect curtains; consult a conservator before cleaning.

Biennial: Clean and wax finished wood furniture (Conserve 0 Gram 7/2, 7/3).
Damp wipe and dry painted wood and raw wood objects, using a clean cloth with water (Conserve 0 Gram 7/2).
Clean exposed wood floors by stripping wax, rewaxing, and buffing (Conserve 0 Gram 7/4).
Clean those areas of woodwork that get the most contact, e.g. door jambs, and that are not painted but are finished wood, and then wax with Staples or Butchers Wax (available from Curatorial Services Division, WASO).

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Note: unless otherwise stated, the following are clippings in Ansley Wilcox's scrapbook, Wilcox Collection, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

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Buffalo Courier, Buffalo, New York, September 8, 10, and 15, 1901 (THRI collection).

Buffalo Courier, Buffalo, New York, December 25, 1901: "No Picture Was Taken" (reproduced in appendix I, this report).

Buffalo Courier-Express, Buffalo, New York, May 25, 1935.

Buffalo Evening News, Buffalo, New York, February 18, 1928; January 29, 1930.

Buffalo Express, Buffalo, New York, September 9, 10, 17, and 18, 1901.

Buffalo News, Buffalo, New York, September 15, 1901; June 20, 1934.

Buffalo Sunday Times, December 11, 1927.

Buffalo Times, Buffalo, New York, March 6, 1921.

___, undated clipping [1934] in THRI research files.

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The Illustrated Buffalo Express, Buffalo, New York, September 15, 1901
(THRI collection).

Ohio Beacon, Ashtabula, Ohio, September 16, 1901.

Oswego Times, Oswego, New York, September 17, 1901.

St. Paul Press, St. Paul, Minnesota, September 15, 1901.

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Utica Herald, Utica, New York, September 18, 1901.

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Ramsay, Allain. Notes on furnishings in dining room, in Dunn, "Revised Fur-
nishing Plan." 1973.

Seale, William. "Furnishings Plan, Morning Room, Theodore Roosevelt In-
augural National Historic Site, Ainsley [sic] Wilcox House, Buffalo, New
York, 1986."

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"Caretaker of Mansion Desired as Roosevelt Memorial Recalls Old Days When Notables Visited Historic Home." Clipping from unidentified Buffalo newspaper (December 22, 1935). THRI research files. Account of interview with John H. Guldner, former chauffeur.

Eaton Galleries, Buffalo, New York. "Furnishings of the Morning Room from the 1921 Photo." THRI research file: Morning Room.

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Matthews, Anne McI. "The Day McKinley Was Shot," *Buffalo Courier-Express* (July 1, 1973).

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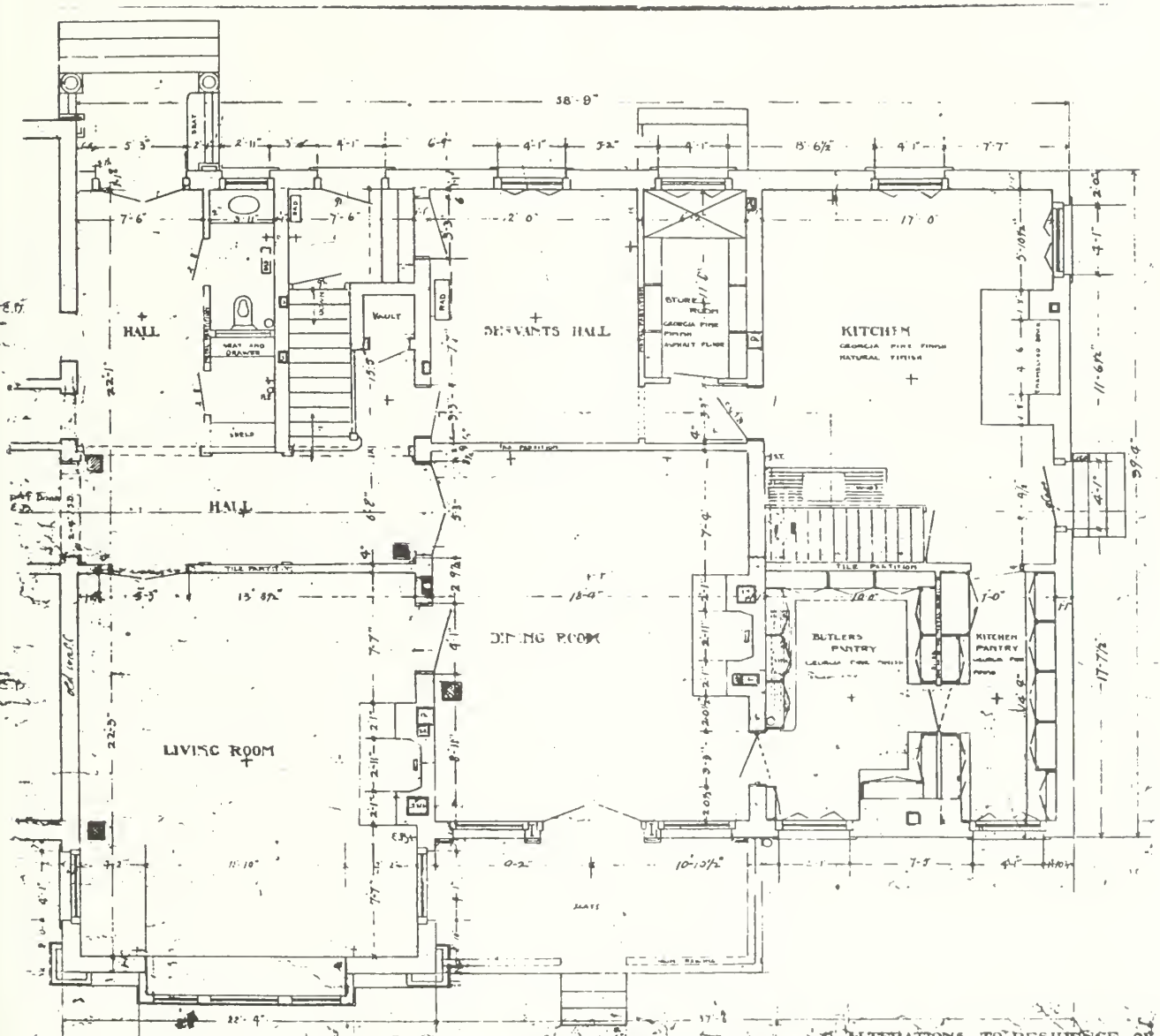
"Scrapbook bares stirring recital." Undated clipping from unidentified newspaper. THRI research files.

"Wilcox Mansion to Go under Hammer Today." Clipping from *Buffalo Courier-Express* (May 23, 1935). THRI research files.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1

“First Floor Plan, Alterations to Residence of Ansley Wilcox Esq. Buffalo, N.Y. George Cary Arch’t” (1896). In George Cary Collection, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Buffalo, NY.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

ALTERATIONS TO RESIDENCE OF
 ANSLEY WILCOX ESQ.
 LOUISIANA, N.Y.
 GEORGE CARY ARCHT.
 JOB NO. XLVIII

Figure 2

East end of library, Wilcox residence, September 14, 1901, after the presidential oath-taking. An almost identical photograph appeared in *Harper's Weekly*, September 21, 1901. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, photograph W 2.1.

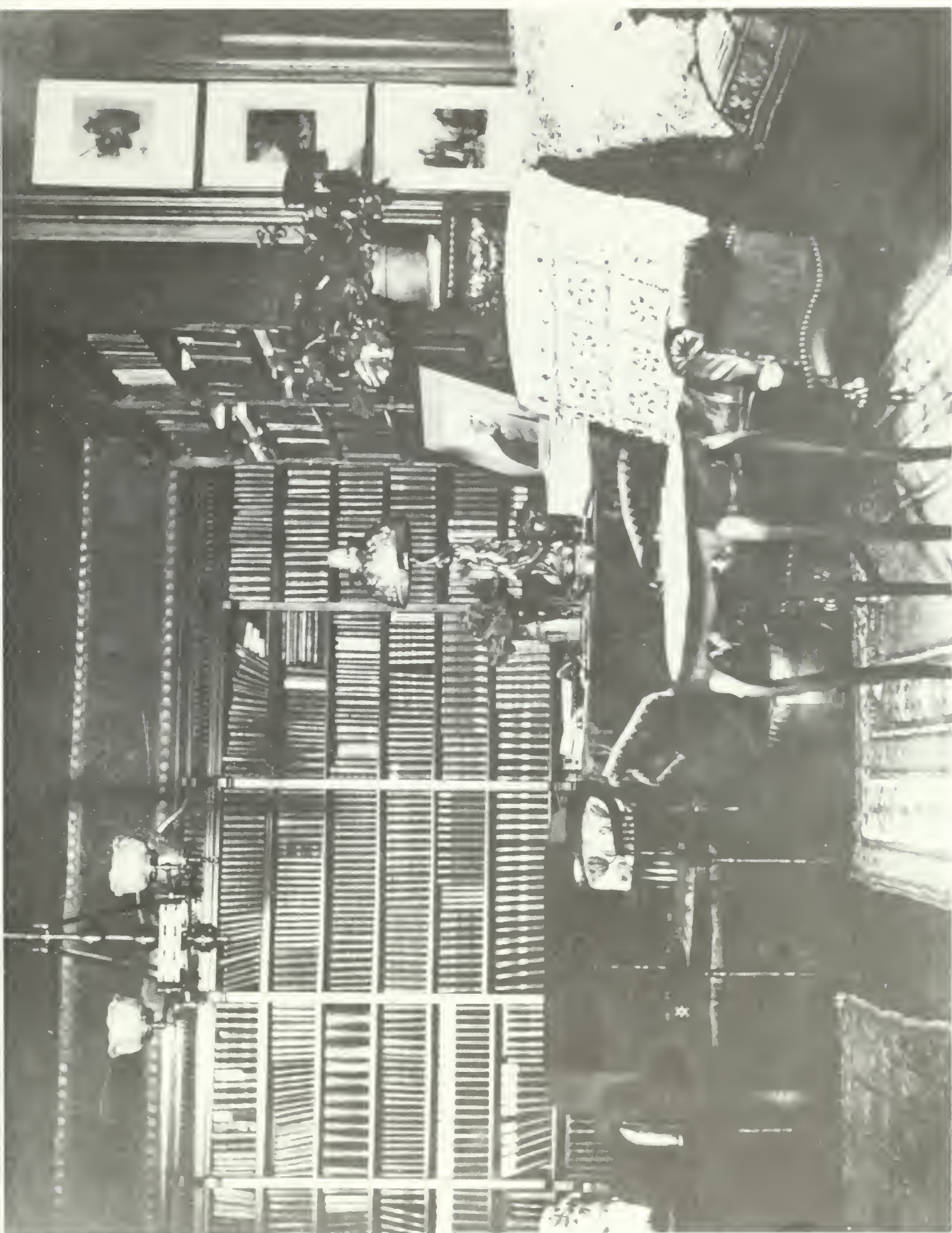
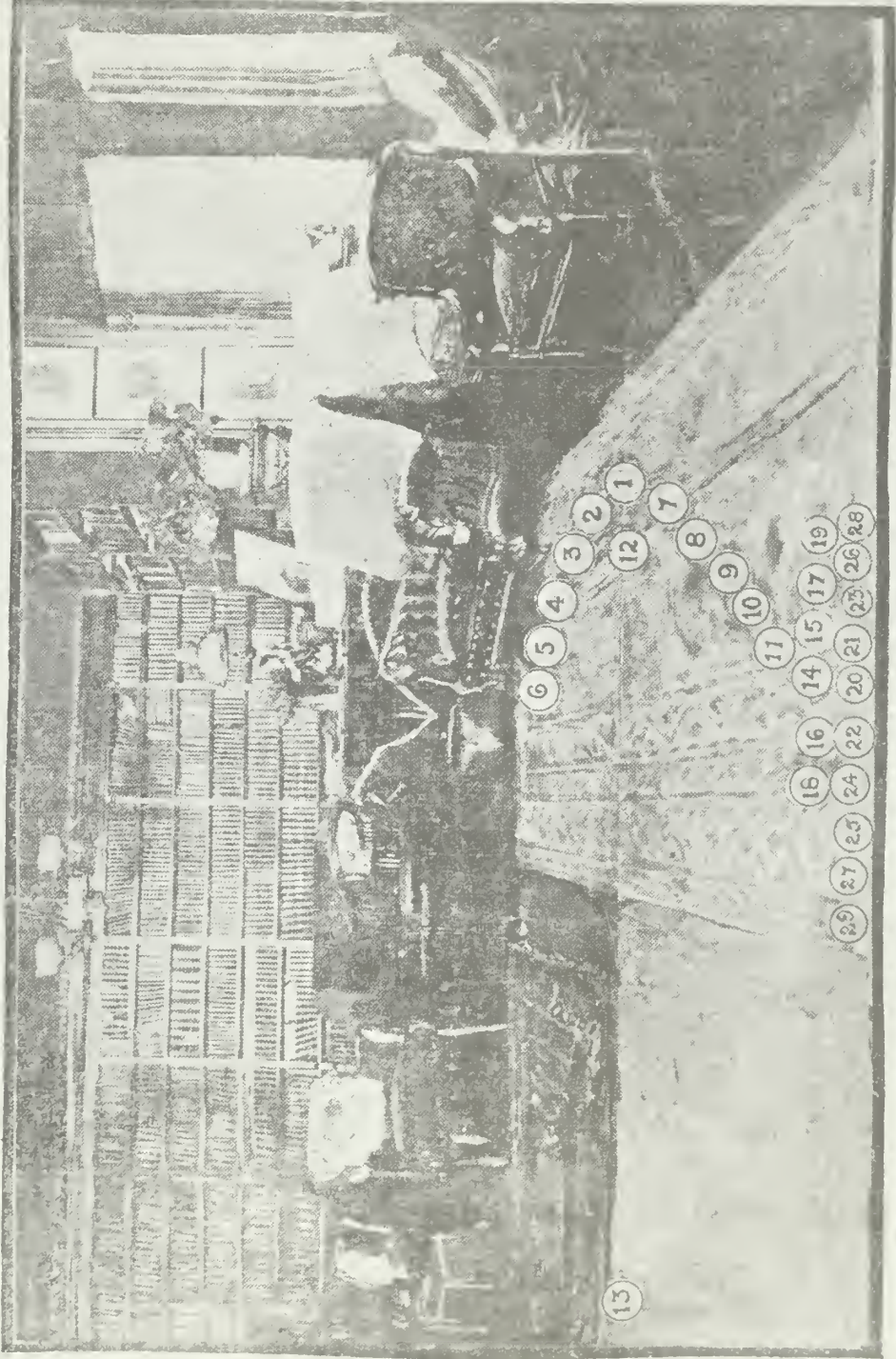


Figure 3

“Where Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in...,” published in *The World*, New York, NY, September 16, 1901. The photograph has been doctored to provide space in the foreground to diagram the position of the major participants in the ceremony. Courtesy Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

WHERE THEODORE ROOSEVELT WAS SWORN IN AS
 TWENTY-SIXTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.



(From Photograph by World Photographer.)

KEY TO PICTURE.—1—Where President Roosevelt stood. 2—Secretary Lusk. 3—Secretary Wilson. 4—Secretary Hitchcock. 5—Ansley Wilcox. 6—Private Secretary Loeb. 7—Secretary Root. 8—Postmaster-General Smith. 9—Senator D. C. Speer. 10—Dr. Mann. 11—Dr. Stockton. 12—Judge John K. Hazel. 13—Group of New paper men. 14—Mrs. Ansley Wilcox. 15—Miss Wilcox. 16—Mrs. John G. M. Burn. 17—Mrs. Carlton Sprague. 18—Mrs. Mann. 19—Mrs. Charles Carey. 20—Dr. Charles L. Carey. 21—Carlton Sprague. 22—M. P. Sawyer. 23—John Scatterd. 24—Robert Scatterd. 25—George L. Williams. 26—George R. Keating. 27—William Jeffers.

1. New York

Figure 4

“The library of the Wilcox residence at Buffalo.....” published in *Leslie's Weekly*, September 28, 1901, the only contemporary view of the fireplace. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation.

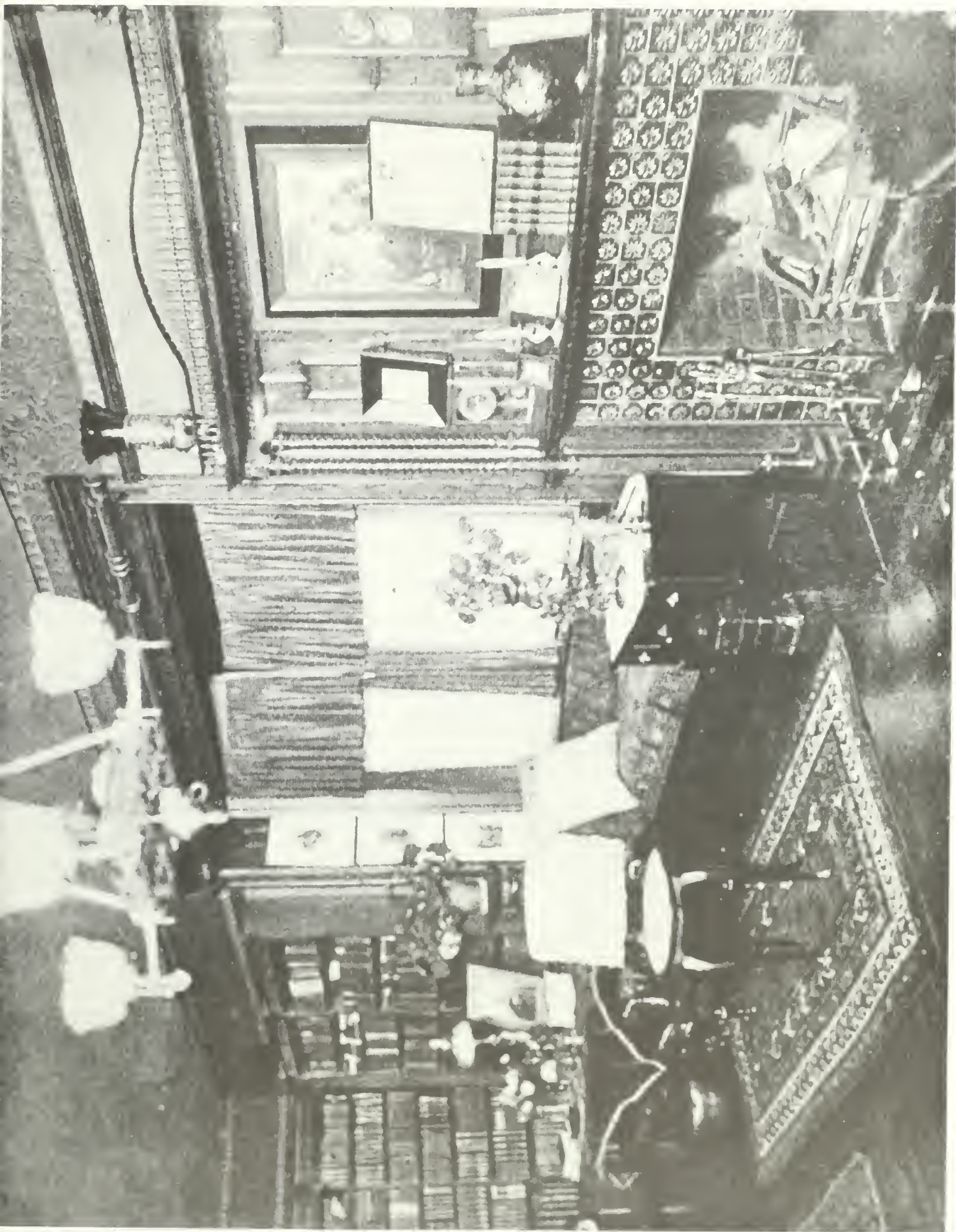


Figure 5

Southeast corner of the Wilcox library, September 14, 1901, from a lower angle. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, photograph W 2.1.



Figure 6

East end of the Wilcox library, possibly taken in 1901 but some time after the Roosevelt visits; note the almost total rearrangement of furnishings, different curtains, etc. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site, photograph W 2.4a.

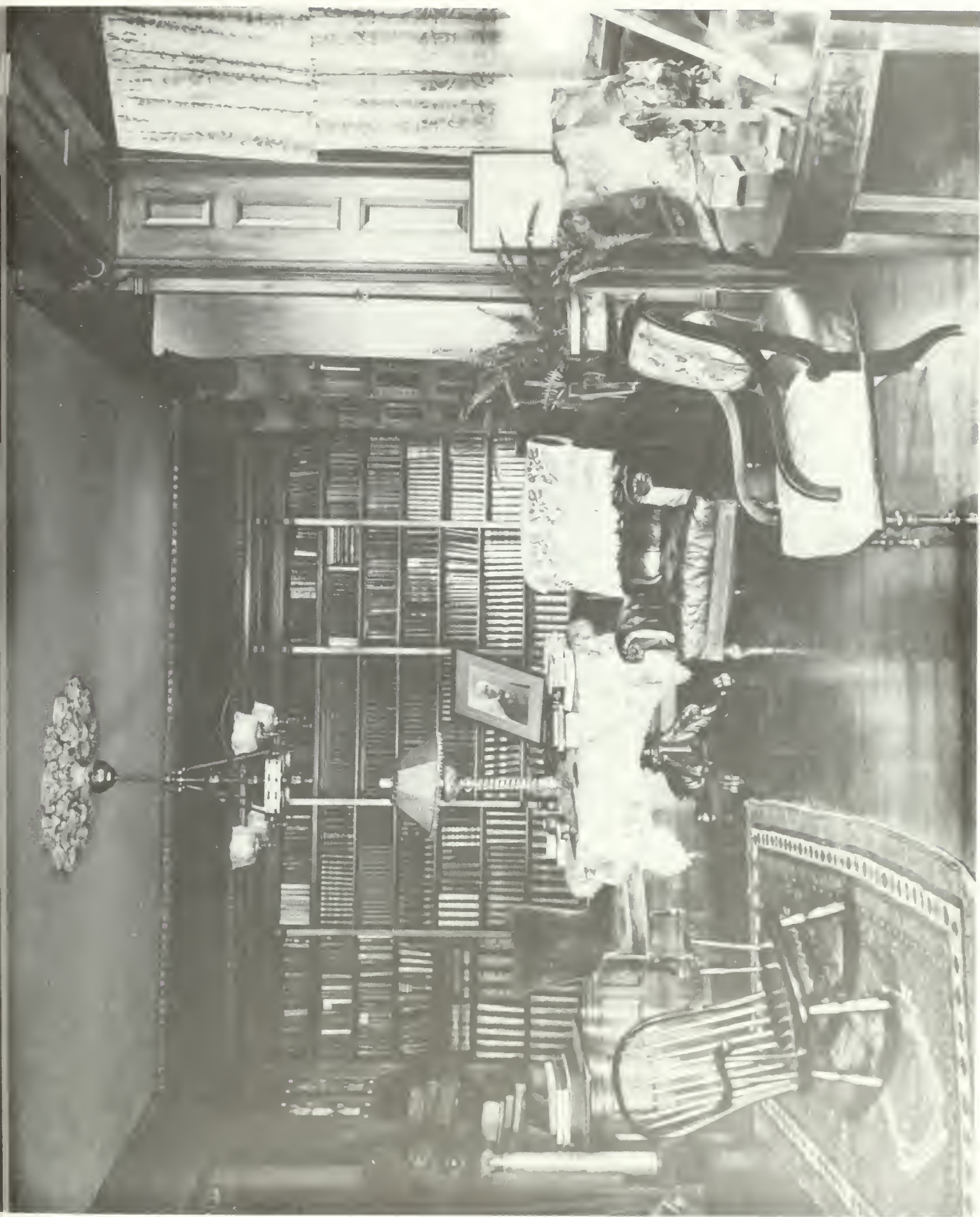


Figure 7

Wilcox library, looking toward west (Delaware Avenue) end, 1921. This was published in the *Buffalo Times*, March 6, 1921, with the caption: "Living room in the Ansley Wilcox home...." Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site.



Figure 8

Northeast corner of the Wilcox library, a photograph published in the *Buffalo News*, June 20, 1934, after both the Wilcoxes had died. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, photograph W 2.6.



Figure 9

Dining room, Wilcox residence, looking east, 1921.
Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, gift of Mrs. Marian Bull Eames, 1988.



Figure 10

Dining room, looking south, photographed for publication in the *Buffalo Times*, March 6, 1921. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, gift of Mrs. Marian Bull Eames, 1988.



Figure 11

President Taft (seated) with Major Archie Butt and Mr. Ansley Wilcox, in the morning room of the Wilcox house, April 30, 1910. Note portrait of Frances Wilcox, by Evelyn R. Cary, over mantel. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, photograph W 7.1.



Figure 12

Portrait of Ansley Wilcox at his desk in the morning room, by Urquhart Wilcox, 1919. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation.

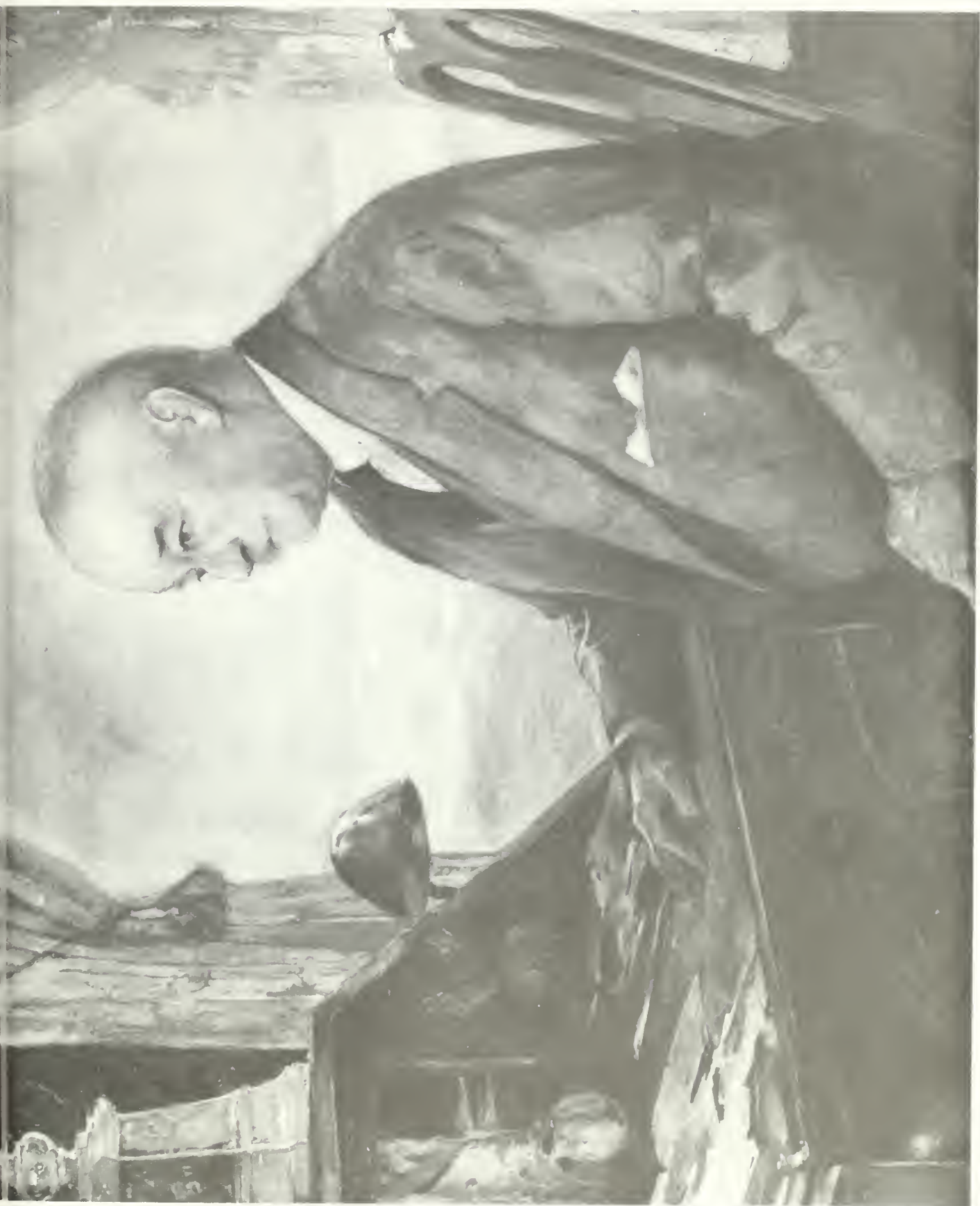


Figure 13

Morning room or “study” in the Wilcox house, from a photograph published in *Buffalo Times*, March 6, 1921. Courtesy of Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation.



Figure 14

Fireplace and terrace doors, morning room, c.1934. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, photo W 3.2. The portrait of Ansley Wilcox was painted in 1927 by his brother Urquhart.



Figure 15

Front parlor, looking west toward Delaware Avenue, 1921. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, gift of Marian Bull Eames.



Figure 16

Back parlor, looking east from front parlor, 1921. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, gift of Marian Bull Eames. Note player piano in front parlor and 18th century harpsichord in back parlor. The large painting was probably "The Little Princess," by Gaston La Touche.



Figure 17

Back parlor, north wall, 1921. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, gift of Marian Bull Eames.



Figure 18

Front of Wilcox residence, September 14, 1901, probably taken while the inaugural ceremony was taking place inside. Detail showing library window with decorated shade. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, photograph W 4.1b.



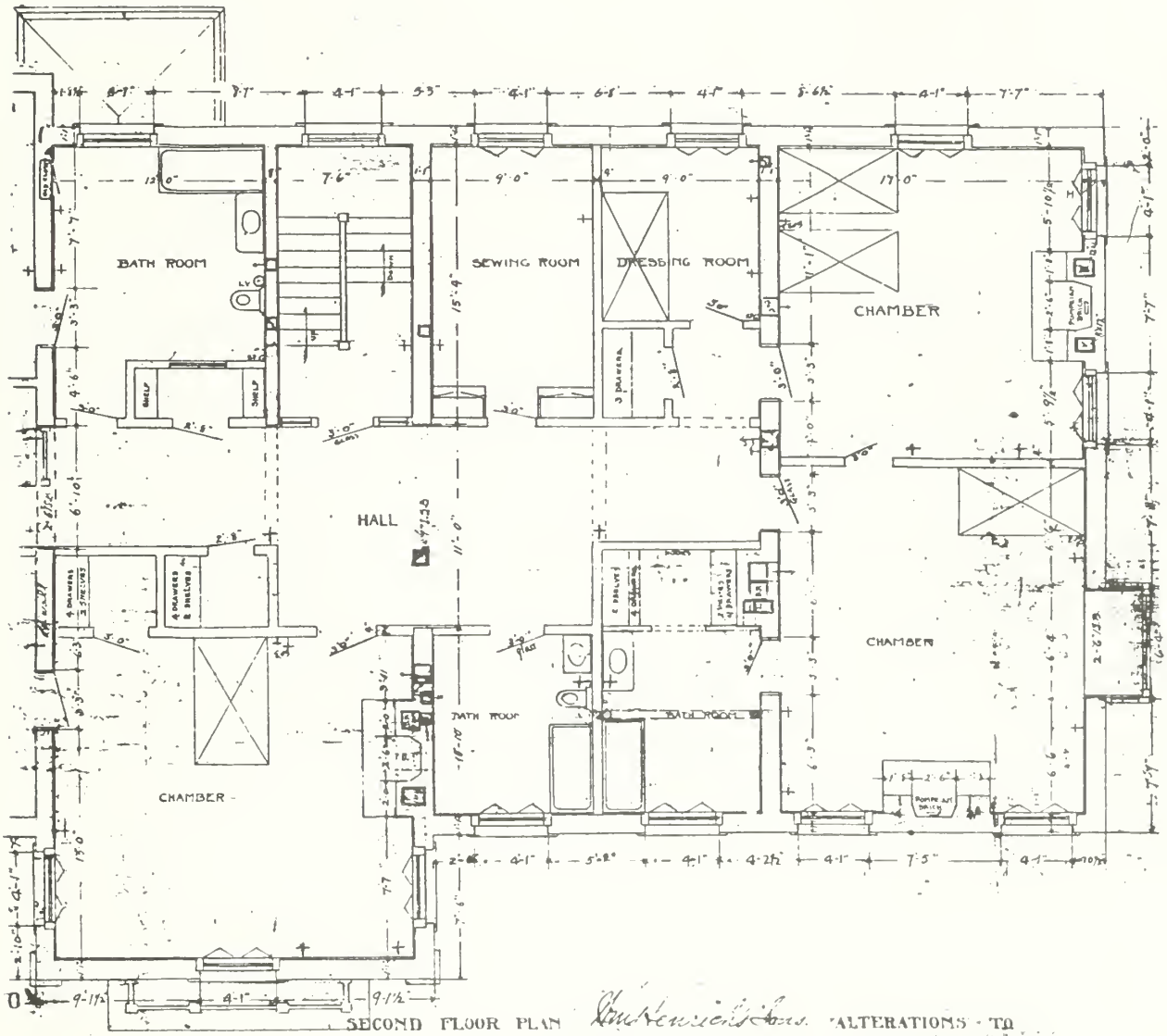
Figure 19

South side of Wilcox residence, c.1901, showing plain window shades in morning room, decorated shades in dining room. Photograph marked "4/7 Cary," courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation.



Figure 20

“Second floor plan, alterations to residence of Ansley Wilcox Esq., George Cary Arch’t,” in George Cary Collection, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society. Room numbers have been assigned by the author. No plans exist for the rooms in the front part of the house (rooms 201-202, 208-210).



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

*Alterations to
residence of*

ALTERATIONS TO
RESIDENCE OF
ANSLEY WILCOX ESQ
GEORGE CARY ARCHT.
105 N. 1ST ST.

Figure 21

North back room (206) in 1921, when it was Mrs. Wilcox's bedroom. The north window, behind the bed, was converted to an open doorway about 1938. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, gift of Marian Bull Eames.



Figure 22

Southeast room (214) in 1921, when it was Mrs. Wilcox's sitting room. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, gift of Marian Bull Eames. This photograph was published in the *Buffalo Times*, March 6, 1921.



Figure 23

Bed reputedly used by Theodore Roosevelt when he stayed in the Wilcox house, September 1901. The photograph, probably taken in the south front bedroom (208), was published in the *Buffalo News*, June 20, 1934. Courtesy Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, photograph W 5.1b.



APPENDIXES

Appendix A

“Analysis of Historic Occupancy,” from **Walter S. Dunn, Jr.,** “Furnishing Plan” (ca. 1969), pp. 5-27.

C. ANALYSIS OF HISTORIC OCCUPANCY

The first survey of the land was performed by the Holland Land Company. The title search begins with the survey by Joseph Ellicott, agent of the Holland Land Company. Ellicott was acting for Wilhelm Willink, one of the proprietors of the Holland Land Company. On March 1, 1809, the property was sold by Wilhelm Willink for the Holland Land Company to Ebenezer Walden for \$232.50.

Ebenezer Walden was born in Massachusetts in 1777. After graduating from Williams College, he studied law in Oneida County and came to Buffalo in 1806 as the first licensed lawyer in Western New York. Initially he had so few clients he was forced to clerk in stores. His first office was situated on Main Street between Exchange and Seneca. In 1810 he purchased lots on the northeast corner of Main and Eagle, and for the next four decades continued to amass a fortune in extensive real estate holdings.

In 1812 Walden married Susannah Marvin and also was elected State Assessee. A year later when the British invaded Buffalo, he saved many lives and with his family was among the many citizens who fled to Williamsville. Later in 1813 Walden was on a committee to assess the losses sustained during the British invasion, and was one of four trustees for the incorporation of the village of Buffalo by the State Legislature. He was a member of a group to form the first brickyard in the area, and then proceeded to build one of the first brick houses.

In 1816 Walden was a trustee of the first local bank, The Bank of Niagara, which was founded that same year. In 1819 he was one of a group of men to sponsor a loan for construction of a harbor in Black Rock. On October 8, 1835, the property on which the Wilcox House now stands was sold by Ebenezer Walden and his wife, Susan, to Alanson Palmer for \$100,000.

Born in Eastown, Washington County, New York, in 1794, Palmer was one of six children and settled with his parents in the area of 18-Mile Creek. His first job was in a tannery, followed by service in the army, which he joined as a substitute for his older brother.

After the War of 1812 Palmer became a store clerk, was most industrious and opened his own grocery store with a bank account of thirteen dollars. Even in those early business years he loved to speculate in almost anything in which he could make money. He was in the building business and built the County Poor House Farm, north of North Street.

Mr. Palmer's first wife died shortly after their marriage. His second wife was Julia Matteson, and they had two sons and three daughters.

During the period 1827-1836, Palmer purchased much property including the American Hotel for \$100,000. He built the vessel Julia Palmer (named for his wife), the second full-rigged ship employed in lake commerce at a cost of \$32,000.

Throughout his life Palmer remembered the poor and needy and was always willing to help. With his own money he opened the Palmer School, the first free public school in Buffalo. Located in the basement of the Unitarian Church it drew "six boys and six girls from each ward in the city." Palmer paid for all books and stationery. His trustees were: Ira A. Blossom, Elijah D. Efner, John B. Macy, James McKay, John W. Beals, and Noah B. Sprague.

Palmer was a flamboyant, warm-hearted, astute man. He valued self-esteem, and thus not only dressed richly, but talked in the most "grandiloquent styles."

Palmer's role of "Buffalo Millionaire" came to an abrupt end with the financial crash of 1836. With his many problems too much for him, his physical and mental health was broken, and he spent the rest of his life in the Willard Asylum in Ovid, New York.

Palmer never lost his sense of humor or his love of friends. Many years later when an old friend, State Comptroller, Hon. Nelson K. Hopkins, was on a visit to Ovid, Palmer remarked, "What! Comptroller, have they got you here too?" Alanson Palmer died at the age of 82.

Palmer held the Wilcox House property but a short time, less than seven weeks after his purchase on October 8, 1835. He sold the property on November 24, 1835, in company with his wife, Julia, to Benjamin Rathbun for \$79,276, a loss of over \$20,000 within this short period.

Benjamin Rathbun was born in Otsego County, New York, in 1790. He arrived in Buffalo in 1821, and became the proprietor of the Eagle Tavern, a well known and well patronized hostelry and stage coach shop. He became prominent in this occupation and in 1827 he was elected a Trustee of Buffalo before it became a city.

In 1832 Rathbun built a retail and dry goods store at 228-230 Main Street. By 1835 he was considered the leading heavy building contractor in the city. As a merchant he had increased his holdings by building and opening other stores at 267 and 272 Main Street. He also owned and operated other buildings in the downtown area which he had built.

By 1836 Rathbun was thought by all to be at the height of success, power and fame. He was a real estate broker, merchant, builder, banker, stage line operator, hotel keeper, bus line owner, civic leader, and owner of a factory to manufacture railroad cars, stage coaches and pleasure carriages. His financial operations affected the money market of the entire country. He employed over 2,100 people and his daily payments were over \$10,000. By this time the newspapers and the citizenry referred to him as "the man of the times," "the builder of Buffalo," and "the ruling power of her (Buffalo) destiny."

Then in 1836, due to the tightening money situation which led to the Panic of 1837, all of Rathbun's commercial enterprise collapsed and he went bankrupt. It was discovered accidentally that papers bearing his name and the names of almost every leading businessman of Buffalo at the time were forged in an amount in excess of five million dollars. Rathbun claimed that the actual signing was done by his brother and two nephews. Rathbun was arrested and placed in prison. These events resulted in a tragedy for about one-third of the city's population. Workers rioted and the city was thrown into turmoil. Rathbun spent two years in prison before his trial was moved to Batavia because of the publicity. He was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison in 1838. New York State Governor Seward denied him pardons in 1840 and 1842.

In 1843, after serving his full term of five years in the State Prison, he returned to Buffalo to live for several years. Then he moved to New York City and built and lived in a hotel on Lower Broadway named the Rathbun

House. Rathbun prospered and was respected in the community. He died in 1873 at the age of 83.

As part of the collapse of Rathbun's fortune on August 1, 1836, the property on which the Wilcox House stands was assigned to Hiram Pratt, Louis F. Allen, Thomas C. Love, Joseph Clary and Millard Fillmore as executors for the benefit of Rathbun's creditors for the nominal sum of \$1.00. All of these men were officers of the Buffalo Fire and Marine Insurance Company except Millard Fillmore who was then an attorney in the firm of Fillmore, Hall and Haven.

In 1832 Hiram Pratt was the cashier (officer) and director of the Bank of Buffalo, a director of the Buffalo Fire and Marine Insurance Company, a trustee of the Buffalo Literary and Scientific Academy, and an officer of Pratt Taylor & Co. In 1835 and 1836 he was Mayor of Buffalo, President of Pratt Taylor & Co., and President of the Bank of Buffalo.

In 1832 Louis F. Allen was an agent of New York Life Insurance and Trust Co. He also served on the Buffalo Board of Health and was the Secretary of the Buffalo Fire and Marine Insurance Co. In 1836 Allen continued to serve as an agent for the New York Life Insurance and Trust Co.

In 1832 Thomas C. Love was a Fifth Ward alderman, an attorney, a director of the Buffalo Fire and Marine Insurance Co. and a trustee of the Buffalo Literary and Scientific Academy. In 1835 and 1836 he was a member of Congress and a partner in the law firm of Love and Norton in Buffalo.

In 1828 Joseph Clary was a Justice of the Peace in Buffalo and an attorney. In 1832 he practiced law, served on the Buffalo Board of Health and was a director of the Buffalo Fire and Marine Insurance Co. In 1835 he was law partner of Horatio J. Stow in Buffalo under the firm name of Clary & Stow.

In 1828 Millard Fillmore was Commissioner of Aurora, New York. In 1832 he was a practicing attorney in Buffalo and

Vice-President of the Buffalo Lyceum. In 1835 he practiced law in Buffalo with Nathan Kelsey Hall under the firm name of Fillmore & Hall. In 1836 he continued to practice law in Buffalo under the firm name of Fillmore, Hall & Haven.

On October 28, 1836, the mortgage executed by Benjamin Rathbun in 1835 to Alanson Palmer and assigned by Palmer to Walden was foreclosed. The rapid turnover of ownership in the years 1835 and 1836

was symptomatic of the inflationary boom which took place in those years, followed by the collapse in the panic of 1837. On June 5, 1837, the property was sold by auction at a mortgage foreclosure sale to Ebenezer Walden for \$47,500.

In 1836 Walden was one of a group to secure a charter incorporating Western University. He conditionally promised nine acres of land. In 1838 when this plan failed after the panic of 1837, Walden leased this same land for the purpose of establishing a military post for the defense of the Niagara Frontier to the Federal Government, which built the "Buffalo Barracks" or "Poinsett Barracks."

The Poinsett Barracks were named for J. Roberts Poinsett. Born in Charleston, South Carolina on March 2, 1779, he was a member of Congress from 1821 to 1825 and in 1825 was appointed Minister to Mexico. As a result, he published Notes on Mexico and the poinsettia plant, a native of Mexico was named for him. President Van Buren appointed him Secretary of War in 1837.

From 1838 to 1845, the 2nd Artillery, the 4th Artillery and the 2nd Infantry at various times were posted at the Poinsett Barracks. It was during this period that the first

structure included in the Wilcox House was built as part of the officers' quarters for the post. In 1838 the military post was considered to be out in the country beyond the builtup area of Buffalo. The only structure remaining of that military occupation is the Ansley Wilcox house. Originally it faced Main Street and was a double house serving the families of two officers. Dr. Wood, a surgeon, and his family resided on one side. Mrs. Wood was the daughter of Zachary Taylor, President of the United States. Captain Casey lived in the other half. His son, Tom, was engineer for the Public Library in Washington, D.C. The soldiers left Poinsett Barracks in 1845 and the lease was terminated.

On September 22, 1847, Ebenezer Walden sold a portion of the property including the present Wilcox House site to Joseph G. Masten and his wife, Christina, for \$3,500. Two mortgages for \$5,500 and \$14,000 were taken by Masten to buy additional pieces of the property.

Joseph G. Masten settled in Buffalo in 1836 and at once acquired a large and important legal business. He had been in law practice for some years at Bath, Steuben County.

In 1843 he was elected mayor of the city and re-elected in 1845. Judge Masten was an influential member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1867, as a delegate at large, and served on the Judiciary Committee.

In 1848 he was chosen Recorder of the city, the duties of which judicial office he discharged with great credit, and in 1856 was elected as Judge of the Superior Court, formerly known as Recorder's Court, which position he held until his death in April 1871. He was a trustee of the Grosvenor Library and the Law Library.

In every position to which he was appointed or called by the people, Judge Masten discharged the duties assumed with an ability and fidelity which commanded the respect of all parties. As a lawyer and a judge he occupied a high rank and was recognized as a sound and enlightened jurist.

Judge Masten had as law partners at one time Evert Van Buren, and later Henry W. Rogers, both his seniors and eminent in their profession.

Judge Joseph G. Masten, was a handsome, erect, manly and manly man. His countenance had a thoughtful look when in repose; when addressing another or addressed on ordinary topics his face wore the most pleasant of smiles. He wore his hair at good length, arranged with orderly carelessness, which gave to his appearance a "nonchalant" look. Among his social intimates he was a most agreeable and genial gentleman. An accurate lawyer, an industrious judge, he was instinctively polite and cordial to all.

Judge Masten died April 14, 1871 at the age of 62; he was eulogized by Grover Cleveland and others. The funeral took place at the family residence on North Street. Episcopal services were read by Dr. Shelton, a noted Buffalo clergyman.

Masten sold the property on which the Wilcox House now stands June 23, 1857, to the Oliver Lee and Company Bank of Buffalo for \$32,500 subject to two mortgages which Masten had taken out when he purchased the land from Walden.

The Oliver Lee and Company Bank was founded by Oliver Lee in 1844. Oliver Lee was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, December 23, 1791. He came to Genesee County in 1813 and settled in Orangeville, now Wyoming County and opened up a farm on which he lived many years. He was married in Connecticut, October 30, 1813, to Eliza Downer who was born July 22, 1794. There were eleven children two of whom died in infancy. He was an early constable and was subsequently appointed deputy sheriff,

when the county of Genesee extended east to Genesee River and north to Lake Ontario. He moved to Warsaw, where he kept a public house a few years. In 1823 he went into the mercantile business in Sheldon and continued it for one year.

In 1825 he came to Westfield where in partnership with John McWhorter, he pursued the same business several years. In the fall of 1827 he began trade at Silver Creek, having purchased the mill and farm previously owned by John E. Howard. In 1828 he moved his family there and in the same year took into partnership Clark C. Swift, under the firm name of Lee & Swift, until 1832.

In 1839 he established the Bank of Silver Creek. In 1840 he took as partner his son, Charles H. Lee and retired from the mercantile business a few years after. He died suddenly in Buffalo, July 28, 1846.

The children of Oliver Lee were: Eunice, wife of Clark C. Swift, who died 1866; Caroline; Charles H.; Eliza, wife of William H. Abell, of Buffalo; James H. who married Lucretia

M. Clark, lived in Buffalo and engaged with brother Charles in mercantile business and other; Franklin, who married Marianne Waith, daughter of Rev. Wm. Loomis, Buffalo; Helen, wife of Henry Montgomery, of firm of Clark, Holland & Company in the planning business, Buffalo; John M., California; Maria L., wife of Chauncy G. Talcott, a tanner and currier at Silver Creek.

The bank was possibly in the hands of Oliver Lee's sons in 1857. The Oliver Lee Bank was sold at public auction on April 4, 1859, and went into receivership. When the bank went into receivership, one of its main creditors was the New York Central Railroad. When its assets were sold at public auction on April 9, 1859, the New York Central sent its treasurer, Gilbert L. Wilson from Albany to attend. Wilson bid on the property and bought it for \$26,598.37. According to the New York Central, Wilson was sent to the auction to keep the price up and was caught with the high bid. Wilson paid for the property and was reimbursed with New York Central funds, though he continued to hold it for them in his own name. At his death it passed with his estate to his son, who sold part of it to the New York Central Railroad Company for \$10.00 on July 11, 1861. Another portion of the property was sold by Cora L. B. Wilson, the widow of Gilbert L. Wilson to the New York Central Railroad Company for \$1.00 on December 27, 1862.

The New York Central had no intention of developing the property and on May 1, 1863, sold a portion at the rear of the house to Angeline L. Marsh for \$5,437.50 and on the same date sold the parcel on which the house stands to Albert P. Laning, a close associate of the railroad, for \$8,800.

Albert P. Laning was born in Burlington, Otsego County, New York, about 1817. His father was a Methodist minister. In 1838-39 Laning attended the Oneida Conference Seminary in Madison County, New York. Later he began his law career by entering the office of Judge Shankland of Cortland County. In 1845 he was admitted to the bar and began practice in Allegany County. About 1855 he came to Buffalo and later succeeded to the practice of Joseph G. Masten who had been appointed to the Superior Court Bench. He joined the Democratic Party and from 1854 to 1858 was a member of the Democratic State Committee. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1864, an alternate in 1868 and 1872, and a delegate in 1876.

He was elected to the assembly in 1858 and in 1874 was elected to the State Senate. His interest was canal legislation. He was a nominee for mayor of Buffalo but not elected. He was one of the commissioners for the City and County Hall and was proud of the building that resulted from that work. For several years before his death he was the attorney for the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad and Canada Southern Railway. He was associated with Daniel H. McMillan and James F. Glock, Grover Cleveland and Oscar Forsom.

In 1843 Laning married Miss Esther N. Pulling and had one daughter. He did not have an imposing appearance nor personal magnetism nor did he affect the persuasive or conciliatory style.

He fought his battles with pure intellect. His mind was active and he had a marvelous memory. He had a tremendous vocabulary and there was nothing commonplace about him. He never wasted time and keenly analyzed situations rapidly and accurately.

He died on September 4, 1880, on his return from the Cincinnati convention. Among his pallbearers were six representatives of the New York Central Railroad.

On March 24, 1881, Esther N. Laning, the widow of Albert P. Laning and his daughter Helen A. Laning sold the property on which the Wilcox House stands to Frederick A. Bell for \$37,581.

Frederick A. Bell was born about 1845. He spent his early life in Rochester where his father was a prominent and wealthy citizen. He married Mrs. Mary Gridley Bruce about 1870. She was the daughter of General Asabel Gridley, one of the wealthiest men of central Illinois. The marriage proved unhappy and Mrs. Bell sued for divorce about 1900. Divorce and alimony of \$5,000 were granted and Mr. Bell contested in Court of Appeals of New York, State Supreme Court and U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Bell was active in coal, lumber and grain elevating business. He was very successful in the coal mining business in Pennsylvania and came to Buffalo about 1878 as head of the firm of Bell, Lewis and Yates. His brother-in-law, George H. Lewis, was a junior member of the firm. During its eighteen year existence, the company did an enormous business.

Mr. Bell was a prominent figure in business and social circles and a very handsome man. He had a famous historical library, one of the best in the country and a fine art collection. He had a rare ability for business and his advice was often sought by capitalists.

He retired in 1896 and spent two years abroad. In 1898 he bought a home in Madison, New Jersey. He died in a New York City hospital on May 20, 1900, and was survived by his widow and sister, Mrs. George H. Lewis.

Mr. Bell left an estate valued at 25 million dollars. No copy of the will was filed in Erie County. Those left large bequests in Buffalo were his lawyer, Henry H. Seymour; his physician, Dr. Thomas Lathrop; his sister, Mrs. George H. Lewis and her son.

On November 17, 1883, the house and property were sold by Frederick Bell and Mary G. Bell, his wife, to Alfred Bell of Rochester, New York for \$47,500. The relationship of Alfred Bell to Frederick Bell has not been determined, but he held the house for only ten days. The deed was notarized by Ansley Wilcox and recorded on November 26, 1883. On the next day, the property on which the house stands was sold by Alfred Bell and his wife, Juliette, to Dexter P. Rumsey for \$36,500. On June 27, 1877, the property adjoining this had been sold by the same Alfred Bell to Dexter P. Rumsey for \$10,000.

Dexter Phelps Rumsey was born in Westfield, Chautauqua County, on April 27, 1827, and came to this city with his parents when he was four years old. Buffalo was his home continuously thereafter.

Mr. Rumsey's father was Aaron Rumsey, who established several tanneries and leather stores in this city in the early days of the municipality. Aaron Rumsey was an exceedingly progressive business man, and it wasn't long after he settled in Buffalo that he had a well established leather business here. This business he developed until it grew to large proportions, and when his two sons, Dexter P. and Bronson C. Rumsey, became of age their father took them into the firm with him. But long before this, both young men were identified with their father in the conducting of the business and they were among the young city's ablest business men when they were taken into partnership with their father and the firm of A. Rumsey & Co. was organized.

After the death of Aaron Rumsey, the sons carried on the leather and tannery business established by their father. The two brothers had great confidence in each other's business judgment and, it is said, neither took a business step without consulting the other.

The headquarters of the firm was on Exchange Street, opposite the New York Central Railroad Company's station. Dexter P. Rumsey maintained an office in the building in which the business was conducted up to the time of his death, although he gave up active business about 20 years before.

Dexter Rumsey occupied an honored place in the business and social life of Buffalo. He was much interested in the development of the city and had great faith in its ultimate growth. His faith was attested by the freedom with which he invested some of his capital in real estate. Years before

many others had any idea that Buffalo was to grow into the large city it has become, Mr. Rumsey foresaw its destiny and realized that some of the choicest residence property of the city would be in the vicinity of Delaware Park.

He bought much property in that vicinity when most residents regarded such ventures as premature if not exactly wild. The soundness of Mr. Rumsey's judgment, however, is now well known, for his large holdings in the vicinity of Delaware Park included some of the finest residence property in Buffalo. When he bought this land it was way out in the country, and one plot behind the park was referred to as "Rumsey's woods," but all this land was destined to be covered by residences.

Mr. Rumsey was a President of the Buffalo Club and a trustee of the Erie County Savings Bank. He was involved in many civic activities and cul-

tural and social organizations though he avoided publicity as much as possible.

Mr. Rumsey married three times. To him and his first wife, Mary Coburn, were born two daughters, Cornelia and Mary Grace, both of whom married Ansley Wilcox. His second wife was Mary E. Bissell. On October 25, 1889, Mr. Rumsey married Susan Fiske, daughter of Frank W. and Charlotte (Hazard) Fiske of Buffalo. They had two children, Dexter and Ruth.

Death can at his home at 742 Delaware Avenue. His wife; his daughter, Mrs. Ansley Wilcox; and the two children by his third wife, Dexter and Ruth, survived Mr. Rumsey.

Rumsey bequeathed the property to his daughter, Mrs. Mary Grace Rumsey Wilcox for her lifetime use. Ansley Wilcox had been living in the house since 1884 having married Mary Grace Rumsey on November 20, 1883.

Ansley Wilcox was a lawyer of nation-wide prominence, who attained success and distinction in his profession, which he followed in Buffalo for many years. A recognized leader in movements of reform, progress and improvement, he influenced public opinion to a notable extent and was continually giving of his wisdom and experience to others. He was a friend of the poor and unfortunate and his benefactions were as wide as his knowledge of need.

Born in Summerville, now a part of Augusta, Georgia, January 27, 1856, Mr. Wilcox was a son of Daniel Hand and Frances Louisa (Ansley) Wilcox and a grandson of Colonel Jonathan Samuel Wilcox of Madison, Connecticut. The Civil War played an important part in the destiny of Ansley Wilcox. His father, then living in the South, as a northerner, wished to avoid service in the Confederate Army, but was willing to accept a Confederate government commission to England, taking his chances of successfully running the Yankee blockade. Mrs. Wilcox planned to join her husband in Montreal and with her five young children managed to escape from Augusta on the last train before communications were cut off by General Sherman's army. The mother and children traveled west to Jackson, Mississippi, and gradually worked north, crossing the battle lines at Memphis, Tennessee. There they took a steamer up the Mississippi River, imperilled by shell fire from both armies, and finally joined the husband and father in Canada. After the war they returned to his old home in Madison, Connecticut, and later settled in New Haven.

After attending the Hopkins Grammar School in that city Ansley Wilcox entered Yale University, graduating with the class of 1874, when but

eighteen years of age, and supplemented his education by a year's study at Oxford University in England. With his return to the United States he entered upon his legal career in Buffalo in 1882, as a member of the firm of Crowley, Movius & Wilcox, which a year later became Movius & Wilcox. Under that firm name the practice was conducted until 1892, when Mr. Movius withdrew and the firm then became Wilcox & Miner. Another change in partnership occurred in 1903, leading to the adoption of the style of Wilcox & Bull. This was continued until 1910 and two years later the firm of Wilcox & Van Allen was formed—an association that was maintained from 1912 until 1917. While highly regarded as a corporation lawyer, Mr. Wilcox gave the major part of his time and attention to advisory law. Among the important cases which he handled were the following:

Briggs vs. Spaulding, involving the liability of directors of national banks for neglecting their duties, and establishing the principle that they are fully liable; and Bleistein vs. Donaldson, sustaining the right to copyright ordinary commercial lithographic prints and posters, reversing the decisions of the lower courts. As counsel, Mr. Wilcox assisted in the entrance of the West Shore Railroad (now a part of the New York Central system) to Buffalo in 1882. From 1883 until 1885 he was counsel for the commission appointed by Governor Cleveland to acquire land for the New York State reservation at Niagara Falls and was a commissioner of the reservation for the years from 1910 until 1917. In the educational field he did important work as professor of medical jurisprudence at the University of Buffalo from 1885 to 1906. He was a lawyer of high attainments. His study and research were so thorough that he was never surprised by an unexpected attack, being always fortified for defense, while at the same time he reached for the most vulnerable point in his opponent's armor, and was victorious in many a notable forensic combat. In the case of Rogers vs. the City of Buffalo he succeeded in establishing the constitutionality of the civil service law of the state. After his retirement from the law firm of Wilcox & Van Allen in 1917 he devoted his energies to the service of a few old clients, to work in connection with the handling of estates and the civic and philanthropic activities.

Mr. Wilcox developed the plan of holding city and county elections in the odd numbered years and the national and state elections in the even numbered years, "in order to free municipal governments from politics;" and at the New York State constitutional convention of 1894 succeeded in having this plan adopted as to cities. It has since been copied in many other states. Mr. Wilcox was one of the commissioners in 1913-14 to examine the public health laws of the state, resulting in a new health law within about one year. In 1900 he was named by Governor Roosevelt to hear the charges brought against District Attorney Asa Bird Gardiner, of New York county, and was a member of the commission to inquire into the Elmira

Reformatory scandal, at the time of the Brockway disclosures of alleged cruelty to prisoners.

Keenly interested in movements for city charter reform and civil service reform, Mr. Wilcox aided in organizing the National Civil Service Reform League, becoming a member of its council, and also assisted in forming the Buffalo Civil Service Reform Association, of which he was president for more than a quarter of a century. He took an important part in drafting the law for a commissioner of jurors, appointed by the judges, thus starting a reform of the jury system, which spread widely over New York State and beyond. He was a member of the National Municipal League for better municipal government.

Mr. Wilcox was married in Buffalo, January 17, 1878, to Miss Cornelia C. Rumsey, who was a daughter of Dexter P. and Mary (Coburn) Rumsey and who died December 22, 1880. On the 20th of November, 1883, Mr. Wilcox married Miss Mary Grace Rumsey, a sister of his first wife. Her maternal grandfather, Theodore Coburn, was a prominent contractor of Buffalo and built the First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Wilcox acquired her early education in Buffalo, afterward pursuing her studies in Farmington, Connecticut, and in Paris, France. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox were the parents of two daughters. The elder, Mrs. Nina Bull, made her home in New York City and was the mother of two children: Henry Adsit Bull; and Marion (Bull) Eames, of England. Frances Wilcox, the younger daughter, who became the wife of Major Thomas F. Cooke, was interested in many charities in Buffalo and long served on the board of the College Creche.

Mr. Wilcox was a man of broad sympathies and was constantly reaching out a helping hand to those in need. In 1877 he was one of the founders of the Buffalo Charity Organization Society, the first of its kind in the United States and the model for all others. From that time forward he was a leading spirit in the work of the organization, becoming one of its trustees in 1881, while in 1906 he was called to the presidency, thus serving until his death on the 26th of January, 1930. He was made general chairman of the Buffalo Federation of Charities and Social Service Agencies and also became a trustee of the Buffalo General Hospital, which he represented as counsel for more than forty years.

An independent republican in politics, Mr. Wilcox was one of the original "mugwumps" who refused to support Blaine and rallied to Grover Cleveland for president, participating in the independent movement which resulted in Cleveland's election. He was an intimate friend of Cleveland, Roosevelt and Taft. As to the point of this report, it was at the Wilcox home in Buffalo that Theodore Roosevelt took the oath of office September 14,

1901, following the death of William McKinley, and there he held his first cabinet meeting. A report on this event written by Wilcox and corrected by Roosevelt is attached as Appendix A. Mr. Wilcox was a member of the Century Association, the City Club and St. Andrew's Golf Club, all of New York City; the Buffalo, Country, Athletic, Park, Wanakah, Saturn and University Clubs of Buffalo; the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce; the Chamber of Commerce of the United States; the New York State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Exceptional personal gifts were his and he spared no labor to make full use of his powers.

The executors of the Dexter P. Rumsey estate were Ansley Wilcox, Frank W. Fiske, and Charles Hallam Keep. Fiske was a brother-in-law of Dexter P. Rumsey. They had the right to sell the property with the permission of Mrs. Mary Wilcox and the property was to be sold on her death. However, on November 9, 1910, Mrs. Mary Wilcox deeded the property back to the estate of Dexter P. Rumsey. Ansley Wilcox died on January 26, 1930, and his wife three years later on October 22, 1933. Wilcox and his wife lived in the house until their deaths.

In 1938, Oliver M. and Kathryn Lawrence moved into the house as tenants of the Rumsey estate and converted it into a restaurant. The Lawrences spent nine months renovating the house in 1939 before opening the restaurant as the Kathryn Lawrence Tea Room. In later years it became the Kathryn Lawrence Restaurant. On October 1, 1947, they purchased the house from the Rumsey estate for \$62,000.

The restaurant was closed September 10, 1959. On April 23, 1957, the property had been sold by Oliver H. Lawrence and his wife (died, September 10, 1959) to a domestic corporation known as 641 Delaware Avenue for \$1.00. Lawrence was the president of this corporation. In 1959, the Liberty National Bank of Buffalo leased a parcel of the Ansley Wilcox property upon which the bank branch now stands. The bank occupied their branch bank on this site on January 6, 1959. Included in the lease was an easement to a strip of land on which to build a drive-in ramp, provide access to a fifteen car-parking area, and provide ingress and egress to and from the parking area, and Delaware Avenue and Franklin Street.

In 1960 Nathan Benderson, president of the Benderson Development Corporation, reputedly leased the property for 99 years at \$1,500 per month with the intention of razing it to make way for a parking lot. In 1963 the lease was returned to Lawrence for \$15,000. The Liberty National Bank then purchased the property on November 22, 1963.

Following passage of enabling legislation creating the national historic site in November, 1966, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation was incorporated on March 17, 1967, with the intention of operating the property. When the conditions of the legislation were met, the building was purchased by the federal government on May 23, 1969 for \$250,000.00. For additional information on the historical occupancy, reference should be made to the paper by J. Griffin Leshner, "The Wilcox Mansion of Buffalo a Glimpse of our Past" which is attached as Appendix B.

Appendix B

Will of Grace Rumsey Wilcox, and inventory (pp. 1-19) of her estate at 641 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, November 15, 1933. From the originals filed in Erie County Hall, Surrogates Court, Buffalo, New York.

WILL

of

GRACE RUMSEY WILCOX

I, the undersigned, GRACE RUMSEY WILCOX, of Buffalo, New York, do make, publish and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills by me made.

I. I give and bequeath to my daughter, FRANCES WILCOX COOKE, all my jewelry, clothing and personal belongings of every kind, together with my silverware, linen, furniture, books, pictures and ornaments, including the contents of my residence at Lake View, New York, and together with any automobile or automobiles which I may own with the equipment thereof.

I make this gift to my daughter, Frances, expressing the wish and expectation that she will give to my husband's daughter, Nina, and her children, a generous share of my effects including silverware, linen, furniture, books, pictures and household ornaments.

II. I give and bequeath to my Executor hereinafter named and to their survivor or executors, the sum of Twenty-two thousand Dollars (\$22,000), IN TRUST, for MRS. WILHELMINA COBURN of the City of Buffalo, New York, widow of my uncle, Theodore Coburn, deceased, with authority to invest and reinvest the said sum and collect the income thereof and to pay the net income in quarterly installments to the said Wilhelmina Coburn during her life.

After her death the principal of said trust fund shall be divided into two equal parts. One of such parts shall be paid over to her son, Theodore Coburn, of New York City, to whom I give the same if he be then living. The other of such parts shall

continue to be held by my said Executors for the benefit of Sarah Coburn Hoff, daughter of the said Wilhelmina Coburn, IN TRUST, to invest and reinvest the same and collect the income thereof and to pay the net income in quarterly installments to the said Sarah Coburn Hoff during her life and upon her death to pay and turn over the principal thereof to her children then surviving, the issue of any deceased child to receive the share its parent would have taken if then living; in case said Sarah Coburn Hoff dies without issue, then the principal of her said trust fund shall be paid and turned over to her brother, Theodora Coburn, or if he is not living to his issue, and if there be no issue then to my distributees in accordance with the laws of the State of New York then in effect.

If either the said Sarah Coburn Hoff or Theodora Coburn shall die before their mother, Wilhelmina Coburn, the share of such deceased child shall pass to his or her issue, to whom I hereby give the same in that event. If the said Sarah Coburn Hoff shall die before her mother, Wilhelmina Coburn, without leaving issue surviving the said Wilhelmina Coburn, then her part or share shall be paid and turned over to her brother, Theodora Coburn, and if he be not then living, to his issue or in case there be no issue, then to my distributees in accordance with the laws of the State of New York then in effect.

In case Theodore Coburn shall die before his mother, Wilhelmina Coburn, without leaving issue, then his part or share shall become a part of the trust herein created for his sister, Sarah Coburn Hoff, if she survives her mother, and be administered in accordance with the terms hereof; if, in such event, she does not survive her mother then the said share shall be paid and turned over to her issue, if any, and if there be no issue surviving her mother, then to my distributees in accordance with the laws of the State of New York then in effect.

III. My Executors hereinafter named are authorized in creating the trust provided by Article II of my Will, to set apart for that purpose any security which I may hold at the time of my death, producing an income of not less than five per cent (5%) on the principal of such trust, whether the said securities are ordinarily regarded as trust investments or not and such securities may be so set apart at such valuations as my Executors deem just and proper and their determination in the selection of such securities and the valuation thereof, shall be final and conclusive upon all persons whatsoever.

In case any fund shall under the provisions of Article II of this Will, pass to and become the property of any infant, then I direct that such property be held until such infant reaches his or her majority, by my Executors, their survivor or successors, as testamentary guardians thereof without bond.

IV. I give and bequeath to my friend, FRANCES YARHOMB, whose permanent address is in London, Ontario, the sum of Ten thousand Dollars (\$10,000) in cash or in securities as my Executors may select, if she be living.

I give and bequeath unto EDNA FISHER the sum of Three thousand Dollars (\$3,000), if she be living.

I give and bequeath unto MABEL WILCOX of Buffalo, New York, the sum of Two thousand Dollars (\$2,000), if she be living.

I give and bequeath unto WILLIAM J. P. SEIPP of Buffalo, New York, the sum of Two thousand Dollars (\$2,000), if he be living.

I give and bequeath unto JOHN H. CULNER of Buffalo, New York, the sum of Two thousand Dollars (\$2,000), if he be living.

I give and bequeath unto MARY ROBERTSON of Buffalo, New York, the sum of One thousand Dollars (\$1,000), if she be living.

I give and bequeath unto SARAH TRUSCOTT of Buffalo, New York, the sum of One thousand Dollars (\$1,000), if she be living.

I give and bequeath unto LILLIAN ELLIOTT of London, Ontario, the sum of One thousand Dollars (\$1,000), if she be living.

The legacies provided for in Articles I, II and IV of this Will shall be paid free from any transfer, estate or inheritance tax.

V. All the rest and residue of my estate, both real and personal, including my real property and the buildings thereon, situate in the Town of Hamburg, Erie County, New York, I give, devise and bequeath to my son-in-law, THOMAS F. COOKE, absolutely.

VI. I hereby nominate and appoint my daughter, FRANCES WILCOX COOKE, and my son-in-law, THOMAS F. COOKE, and the survivor of them, to be the Executors of and Trustees under this my Last Will and Testament, and I direct that they shall serve without giving any bond. My said Executors and Trustees or the survivor of them, may at any time resign and transfer any trust fund hereunder in whatever form it may then be, to any bank or trust company in the City of Buffalo, for the completion of the execution of said trust and in such event I hereby nominate and appoint the said bank or trust company as Trustee with all the powers herein granted to my Executors and Trustees.

I hereby grant unto my Executors and Trustees full power with relation to any and all property at any time constituting part of any trust created by this Will and generally with relation to the management and administration of any such trusts; to sell or exchange any such property on such terms as they may deem advisable; to invest and reinvest such property in any securities as they may deem proper without being limited to the class of securities in

which trustees are authorized by law to invest trust funds; to participate in any plan of reorganization, consolidation or merger and to exercise all conversion, subscription, voting or other rights of whatsoever nature appertaining to any such property and to pay such sums as they may deem advisable in connection therewith.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 20th day of May, 1931.

Grace Annmay Wilcox, s.

The foregoing instrument was, on the 20th day of May, 1931, subscribed and sealed in our presence by GRACE ANN MAY WILCOX, to us personally known to be the testatrix therein named, and said testatrix then and there declared the same to be her Last Will and Testament; whereupon we, at her request and in her presence and in the presence of each other, have hereunto set our hands as attesting witnesses.

George B. Barrell Residing at 48 Colonial Circle
Sunderland Gardner Residing at 68 Duxbury Rd. Duxbury, Mass.

Residing at _____

State of Ohio, Sumney Wilcox
 INVENTORY - 641, Delaware Avenue

Parlor

1 stand and contents (mahogany)	5.00
1 end table	.75
1 table (mahogany)	2.00
1 console table and mirror	10.00
3 arm chairs	30.00
1 commode	12.00
1 service table (mahogany)	8.00
1 piano lamp	1.00
1 cabinet and contents	9.00
1 davenport (mahogany)	15.00
1 bridge lamp	1.50
1 3/4 picture	10.00
1 table (mahogany)	10.00
4 chairs "	24.00
1 oak cabinet and contents	2.00
1 arm chair	12.00
1 davenport	20.00
1 drum table	2.00
1 reading table	1.00
1 oak bench	.75
1 pair candelabra	10.00
2 piece bric-a-brac	1.50
1 piano (mahogany)	5.00
1 marble pedestal and contents	20.00
2 fold eorson	2.00
2 pictures	20.00
1 rug (blue)	15.00
Total	\$249.50

(2)

Total carried

\$249.50

1 medium rug 25.00
 1 small rug 3.00
 1 large rug 30.00
 1 invalid chair 2.00

Front Hall

1 umbrella stand .25

1 pair of end tables (mahogany) 4.00

1 console table and contents 15.00

1 clothes tree (mahogany finish) 1.50

1 marble table 4.00

2 chairs (mahogany hair-cloth) 8.00

1avenport " " 20.00

1 tip-up table (mahogany) 7.00

1 picture 2.00

1 hall rug runner 5.00

2 small chairs (mahogany) 6.00

1 console table and contents (mahogany) 7.00

1 chair (mahogany) 3.00

1 console table and mirror 12.00

1 coat tree (mahogany finish) 1.00

1 umbrella stand .50

1 hall rug 7.00

Library

1 stand (mahogany) .75

1 table and contents 2.50

2 arm chairs 8.00

2 davenport)

2 chairs)

35.00

Total

\$450.00

(3)

Total carried

\$459.00

1 fender bench .75
 1 pair irons, tongs, etc. 7.00

1 table and contents 3.00

1 oak stand 1.00

1 lamp 1.00

1 divan 3.00

1 oak table and contents 10.00

1 screen 1.60

1 leather chair 10.00

2 pair curtains 4.00

1 pair portieres 2.00

1 waste paper basket .05

1 lamp 1.00

1 oak table and contente 7.00

1 nest of tables 1.50

1 card table (mahogany) 1.00

1 rug 50.00

books 75.00

Morning Room

2 oak chairs 24.00

1 oak chest and contents 15.00

1 oak cabinet 5.00

1 waste basket .05

1 desk and contents 15.00

1 chair 1.50

1 lamp 1.50

5 piece living room set 60.00

Total

\$753.85

\$1112.35

Total carried

2 chairs	1.50
1 step ladder	.50
dishes and glasses	25.00
<u>Kitchen</u>	
Kitchen utensils	3.00
1 kitchen stove	5.00
3 " tables	9.00
1 rocker	1.50
1 oak dining table)	
5 oak chairs)	6.00
1 clock	2.00
1 electric black stove	2.00
<u>Maids' Sitting Room</u>	
1 walnut side board and contents	2.00
1 table	.75
1 arm chair	2.00
1 davenport	7.00
1 small chair	1.00
1 rocker	.75
1 rug	6.00
<u>Cellar</u>	
coal	30.00
1 Blackstone washing machine	10.00
3 tables	4.50
wood	15.00
1 hall carpet	5.00
1 small hall rug	2.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1254.85</u>

\$759.65

Total carried

1 oak stand	1.50
1 oak chair	5.00
1 fender bench and contents	1.00
1 pine table and contents	3.00
1 console table and contents	6.00
1 book stand and contents	.75
1 chest	10.00
1 pair irons, tongs, etc.	6.00
1 rug	25.00
1 pedestal	1.00
<u>Dining Room</u>	
1 sideboard (mahogany)	
1 table "	
3 chairs "	200.00
1 serving table "	
1 table and contents "	10.00
1 muffin stand "	1.50
2 oandelabra	20.00
1 clock	2.00
1 screen	1.50
1 china cabinet and contents (mahogany)	15.00
1 small rug	6.00
1 large rug	35.00
<u>Butlers' Pantry</u>	
1 ice box	.50
1 kitchen table	.75
2 chairs	1.50
1 step ladder	.50
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1112.35</u>

(6)

<u>Total carried</u>	\$1254.85
<u>North Front Room</u>	
1 ivory bed and contents	7.00
1 night stand and contents	2.50
1 dressing table and contents	6.00
1 ivory dresser and contents	8.00
1 ivory table	4.00
1 chair	2.60
1 maple chair	2.00
1 book stand	1.50
1 coat tree	.75
1 willow chair	1.00
1 chair	1.00
1 maple table and contents	2.50
1 chest (oak)	1.50
1 bridge lamp	.75
1 rug	3.00
1 large rug	15.00
<u>Mr. Wilcox's Room</u>	
1 bed and contents	10.00
1 dresser	5.00
1 wash stand	1.00
1 ivory stand	.75
1 night commode	1.00
1 chair	1.00
1 rocker	1.25
1 table and contents	1.25
1 arm chair	4.00
<u>Total</u>	\$1340.60

(7)

<u>Total carried</u>	\$1340.60
1 large rug	25.00
1 wardrobe	7.00
<u>Bathroom-Mr. Wilcox</u>	
1 ivory chest drawers	4.00
1 white chair	.75
1 towel rack	.50
1 vacuum sweeper	2.00
1 electric heater	.50
2 rugs	2.00
1 mirror	1.00
<u>Sewing Room</u>	
1 chest of drawers (mahogany)	12.00
1 chair	.75
1 coat tree	.75
1 maple rocker	.75
1 chest drawers and contents	1.50
1 costume	2.00
2 rugs	4.00
1 mirror	3.00
<u>Store Room</u>	
1 white chest drawers and contents	3.00
1 ivory chest of drawers	4.00
1 ivory night commode	1.50
1 arm chair	1.50
<u>Total</u>	\$1418.10

Total carried	\$1418.10
1 screen	1.50
1 heater	.80
1 rug	1.50
<u>North Room Back</u>	
1 bed and contents	15.00
1 chest drawers	10.00
1 desk	8.00
1 chair	3.00
1 pair irons, tongs, etc.	4.00
1 cheval-glass (mahogany)	2.50
1 chest drawers (maple)	6.00
1 arm chair	5.00
1 chaise lounge	10.00
1 book case and contents oak	10.00
1 fire screen	4.00
1 table (mahogany)	2.50
1 book case	6.00
5 rugs	15.00
2 mirrors	4.00
2 vases	1.00
1 wall bracket	1.00
<u>South Front Bedroom</u>	
1 bed and contents (mahogany)	10.00
1 commode (mahogany)	7.00
1 arm chair	6.00
1 stand (mahogany)	3.00
1 dresser "	8.00
Total	\$1562.60

(9)

Total carried	\$1562.60
1 mirror	3.00
1 waste paper basket	.05
1 small chair	5.00
1 rug	6.00
1 pair candelabra	1.00
<u>Bathroom</u>	
1 bench	.75
1 towel rack	.75
<u>Louis XIV Bedroom</u>	
1 grey bed and contents	12.00
1 table and contents	4.00
1 arm chair	5.00
1 bridge lamp	.75
1 table	5.00
2 chairs	4.00
1 oak stand	1.25
1 pair tongs, irons, etc.	2.00
1 chair	1.50
1 chest drawers	3.00
1 dressing table and mirror	8.00
3 rugs	9.00
2 pair over drapes	4.00
1 mirror	2.50
1 pair candlesticks	2.00
1 hamper	.75
1 stand	3.00
Total	\$1646.90

(10)

Total carried	\$1646.90
<u>South Back Bedroom</u>	
1 bed maple mahogany firlish and contents	16.00
1 stand	4.00
1 little stand	4.00
1 dresser (mahogany) and contents	7.00
1 mirror	4.00
1 couch	6.00
1 stand (mahogany)	1.50
1 chest drawers	15.00
1 table and contents (mahogany)	15.00
1 chair	12.00
1 fire-side chair	14.00
1 chest drawers	15.00
1 chavel-glass (mahogany)	12.00
1 tea table	4.00
1 rocker	3.00
1 pair irons, tongs, etc.	4.00
1 chair	5.00
1 screen	1.50
1 carpet	15.00
1 rug	4.00
1 waste paper basket	.05
1 clock	2.00
2 candlesticks	.50
<u>Bathroom</u>	
1 towel rack	.75
1 stand	.25
1 ivory chest of drawers	7.00
Total	\$1818.45

(11)

Total carried	\$1818.45
1 large mirror	2.00
1 mirror	1.00
<u>Mrs. Willocks' Bedroom</u>	
1 bed and contents	10.00
1 white table and contents	2.00
1 tea table	1.50
1 rocker (mahogany)	1.50
1 table	1.50
1 stand	2.00
2 arm chairs	8.00
1 davenport and contents	15.00
1 pair tongs, irons, etc.	6.00
3 ivory bookcases and contents	15.00
1 waste paper basket	.05
1 desk and contents	15.00
1 screen	2.00
1 table	1.50
1 rug	20.00
1 mirror	15.00
2 vases	1.00
<u>Bathroom</u>	
1 white chest drawers and mirror	5.00
2 chairs	2.00
1 small chest drawers	2.00
1 light commode	5.00
1 costumer	.75
1 magazine rack	1.50
Total	\$1954.70

Total carried	\$1954.70
<u>Upstairs Hall</u>	
1 painted green chair	5.00
1 cabinet and contents	4.00
1 Magazine stand (mahogany)	15.00
1 oak chest	12.00
1 small chair	6.00
1 console table	6.00
1 rush chair	10.00
1 chest	30.00
2 maple chairs	20.00
2 runners	10.00
2 tables and contents	7.00
1 stand	5.00
1 scels	10.00
2 small arm chairs	12.00
1 bench	3.00
1 carpet	20.00
Linen	25.00
1 corner stand	2.00
<u>Third Floor</u>	
2 iron beds and contents	2.00
1 dresser	3.00
1 small chair	1.00
1 commode	2.00
Total	\$2194.70

Total carried	\$2194.70
<u>North Room</u>	
1 arm chair	1.50
1 towel rack	.50
1 table	3.00
1 commode	2.00
1 rug	3.50
1 table (mahogany)	10.00
1 white bed and contents	2.00
1 dresser	7.00
1 chair	.75
1 table	4.00
1 commode	.75
<u>Rear North Room</u>	
1 mahogany finished dresser	4.00
1 chair	2.50
1 table	.75
<u>North Room</u>	
1 iron bed and contents	4.00
1 rocker	3.00
1 chest drawers and mirror	2.50
1 arm chair	2.50
1 ivory chair	1.00
1 table	.75
<u>Hall Section</u>	
1 bookcase and contents	.00
1 bookcase and contents	7.00
Store Room (misc.) in attic	26.00
14 trunks	14.00
4 rugs	150.00
clothes (Mrs. Wilcox)	25.00
Total	\$2476.70

(14)

Estate of Grace Rumsey Wilcox - 641 Delaware Avenue

Jewelry

1 lorgnette-platinum, diamond	\$200.00
1 necklace diamond-crystal	125.00
3 brooches (old mine diamond)	75.00
1 gold watch-pearl	10.00
1 diamond stick pin	60.00
1 set cuff links and studs	5.00
1 diamond pendant-pear-shaped diamond	400.00
1 diamond pendant and green stone	1250.00
1 black pearl	400.00
2 scarf pins--old mine diamond	75.00
1 oats' eye old mine diamond ring	200.00
1 diamond, ruby, ring	275.00
1 diamond (old mine) cluster. ring	75.00
1 diamond and emerald. ring	450.00
1 pearl and red stone pin	50.00
1 pearl and chip diamond neck piece	35.00
1 emerald brooch	25.00
1 Spanish-emerald necklace	10.00
1 seed pearl-necklace	10.00
1 gold obain	2.50
1 platinum chain	2.50
1 watch and chain	12.50
1 gold locket	7.50
Miso. gold	6.00
Mosaic pins, bracelet, etc.	3.00
Total	\$3764.00

(15)

Total carried

1 pendant	3.00
1 gold red enamel necklace	10.00
2 neck chains (plated)	2.00
1 gold watch	8.50
8 miso. rings (gold value)	10.00
1 amethyst choker	25.00
10 plated pins (silver)	5.00
misc. coins and silver plated jewelry	3.00
Total	\$3830.50

Estate of Grace Rumsey Wilcox - 641 Delaware Avenue

Silver

1 large waiter	\$ 75.00
2 (sandwich) plates	10.00
1 tea set--3 piece English	36.00
1 loving cup	35.00
1 loving cup	20.00
1 large repousse	25.00
1 large 4' repousse	20.00
1 repousse	20.00
1 waiter	20.00
1 dish	5.00
2 plates	8.00
1 hammered water pitcher	7.50
1 sterling coffee	5.00
1 gravy boat	5.00
1 small sauce bowl	1.00
2 sterling bread trays	10.00
1 cover	1.00
1 large plated waiter	20.00
1 plated waiter	10.00
1 meat dish	5.00
1 cocktail shaker (plated)	5.00
1 tray (plated)	4.00
1 small platter (plated)	2.00
1 meat platter (plated)	4.00
1 vegetable dish	2.00
2 vegetable dishes	6.00
1 plated tray	3.00
Total	\$353.50

Total carried

2 plated trays	4.00
1 sterling water pitcher	20.00
1 plated prize cup	1.00
1 plated pitcher	3.00
2 sterling goblets	5.00
1 vegetable dish	3.00
4 piece tea set (plated)	10.00
2 plated creams	1.00
1 sterling sauce bowl	1.00
1 waiter (plated)	3.00
1 oak dish (plated)	2.00
1 kettle (plated)	5.00
1 sterling ladle	4.00
1 plated gravy spoon	1.00
1 sterling solid set	6.00
1 sterling gravy ladle	1.50
6 serving spoons	12.00
3 servers	5.00
2 salad forks	4.00
8 table spoons	8.00
11 teaspoons	4.00
8 soup spoons	6.00
11 knives	2.50
1 cheese scoop	.25
8 knives	5.00
10 butter knives	4.00
Total	\$485.75

(18)

Total carried	\$494.75
9 odd spoons	3.00
toilet articles	2.00
12 forks	7.00
12 table forks	9.00
12 dessert spoons	8.00
6 table spoons	6.00
11 tea spoons	4.00
8 coffee spoons	1.60
13 tea spoons	4.00
4 fruit knives	1.00
12 salad forks	7.00
3 salt spoons	.25
2 butter knives	.75
ugar tongs, and butter pick	1.00
2 ice cream servers	2.00
1 sandwich tong (plated)	1.00
3 gravy spoons	5.00
1 pair salts	.50
6 table spoons	6.00
1 cheese scoop and spoon	2.00
12 tea spoons	4.00
11 knives	5.00
1 pair candlesticks (plated)	2.00
1 plated bowl	2.00
1 plated basket	1.00
2 silver candlesticks	1.00
2 plated vegetable dishes	1.00
1 sterling bowl	5.00
	<u>577.75</u>

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(19)

Total carried	\$577.75
1 creamer	1.00
1 sterling gravy boat	3.00
1 bon bon dish	1.00
10 nut dishes, etc.	10.00
4 napkin rings	1.50
8 misc. spoons	5.00
1 plated candy dish	.50
1 jewel box	5.00
4 child's cups	7.00
1 silver sugar basket	4.00
1 cake dish	3.00
1 tray plated	2.00
1 hammered bowl	5.00
5 silver dishes sterling	10.00
1 mustard and sugar dish	3.00
1 plated coffee	1.00
1 plated meat	1.00
1 vegetable dish	2.00
1 silver bell	1.00
1 pair salts	1.50
1 smelling salts	1.00
1 sterling water pitcher	10.00
1 sterling bowl	25.00
1 small coffee	2.00
	<u>664.25</u>
Total	\$664.25

Appendix C

George Cary, "Specifications...for Proposed Alterations in the Residence of Ansley Wilcox, Esq., Delaware Ave: Buffalo, N.Y.," April-July, 1896; from the George Cary Collection, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Buffalo, N.Y. There are separate specifications for each aspect of the work, listed in the following order: "mason work" (6 pages); "carpentry work" (8 pages); "painting and glazing" (2 pages); "tinning and galvanized iron" (1 page); "plumber's specifications" (5 pages); "heating" (8 pages); "hardwood finish" (7 pages); "electrical bells and speaking tubes" (2 pages); and "electrical specifications" (3 pages).

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE MASON WORK FOR

REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS IN THE RESIDENCE OF

ANSLEY WILCOX, ESQ., DELAWARE AVE., BUFFALO, N. Y.

George Cary, Architect, Buffalo, N. Y.

April 24th., 1898.

TEAR DOWN:-

The present rear portion of the building to be torn down. Lay aside all finished wood work, and place the same under cover. The rough wood material to be piled up. The wood material to become the property of the carpenter.

The brick and stone may be used in the new building, subject first to the approval of the Architect.

CLEANING:-

Remove all necessary rubbish, mortar, stones etc. immediately.

STAGING:-

Mason will provide his own staging, derricks, tools, etc

BATTER BOARDS:-

Set proper batter boards and work out the building accurately under the directions of the Architect.

EXCAVATION:-

Take off the sod and the loam from the site of the house and for eight feet additional in width all around and place same in a convenient place on lot, using it again for top dressing.

Excavate for a cellar under the entire building, which is now partly excavated, making the excavation 18" wider all around the outside foundation walls. Excavate trenches for all cellar walls 1'-0" below cellar bottom, and also for veranda piers which are to be 4'-0" below the surface. Excavate for storm drains etc. The cellar floor must be

FOOTINGS:-

Under all walls the footings are to be flat curbed stones 8" thick, projecting 6" on each side of the walls. The stones to be good quality local stones carefully bed each stone on its broadest face.

STONE WORK:-

The walls above the footings to be laid to a line on each face, well bonded, the joints filled with cement mortar and to be thoroughly trowel pointed outside and inside the whole height.

APERTURES:-

Leave openings for drains, water, and gas pipes where necessary, placing lintels over same.

TAR PITCH:-

Cover the outside basement wall below the grade level with a coat of tar pitch.

FILLING:-

Refill around cellar wall with small stones and gravel and thoroughly pound every foot in height.

SOOT STONES:-

The stone above the grade outside to be similar to the stone in the front part of the house

Provide and set windows and door sills, all to have wash and drip, except those of basement, which are to be slate.

Provide and set stone chimney caps.

Area boxes to be the sizes shown on drawings, and to be 3" thick, angles rebated together and strongly secured in place.

SLATE SILLS:-

The basement window sills to be of 2-1/2" slate with wash and drip.

BRICK:-

All the brick used in the building except for hearths,

fire-places, and ranges to be of hard common brick, for outside work they are to be selected brick, to be well shaped and uniform size. The thickness of brick to be similar to old.
 Old brick may be used for inside work, subject to the approval of the architect.

All brick work to be well bonded, the joints to be filled with local cement mortar which is to consist of two parts of best sand to one part of cement. All work to be thoroughly trowel pointed the whole height; except the interior walls, which are to be plastered on to have rough joints.

The inside jamb of basement windows and ash pit to be lined with brick. First story of outside wall to be lined with hollow brick.

CHASSIS:-
 Leave chases for other trades where necessary.

OPENINGS:-
 Cut openings into old wall for doorways where shown.

PIERS:-
 Build piers for porch.

FIRE-PLACES:-
 Supply and place in each fire-opening two 1/2" wrought iron chimney bars cut into the brick, 1/2 in dining room and kitchen.

HEARTHS:-
 Having room masonry carpenter's sizes shown.
 Turn 4" trimmer arches springing entirely from chimney breast each to be 2' wide by the width of the breast. The kitchen hearth to be 3' by width of breast made of 1-1/2" slate. A entire chimney breast of enameled brick.

All fire openings, 1/2" face around the same & hearts to be of Roman face brick. Mortar to be colored to correspond

with brick: ~~to be~~ ^{filled with} the sub down.

EIFES:-
 All areas to have tile lining, the size indicated on drawings.

CHIMNEYS:-

Build chimneys as shown, where they come above the roof, to be of selected brick. The brick work to be kept in all cases at least 1" clear of any wood work. Provide and set in laundry a thimble also a ventilating register, make necessary provisions for placing a hood over range. In basement place a thimble in furnace flue. Iron cleaning out door, and frames in each ash pit close to basement floor.

RELIEVING ARCHES:-

All door and window openings to have brick relieving arches.

Cement Floors:-

Have the cellar floor with 2" best Portland Cement and sand on prepared cement bottom of broken stone or brick 4" deep. The store room to have an asphalt floor.

Areas to have brick bottoms set on edges.

IRON WORK:-

Provide and set all angle irons, I beams, and iron plates & other beams of first floor. These beams plates to be 10"x12"x 7/8" and other necessary constructive iron such as upright angle, or I beams in which to fasten the metal lath as per expanded metal catalogue. Supply and complete this as shown on plans. The Carpenter will furnish the iron stirrups.

All iron work is to be properly and thoroughly cleaned from rust, and cinders, and also receive one coat of metallic paint before brought to the building, and one coat at the building. Supply masonry and outside iron balcony as shown.

MISCELLANEOUS:-

Flush down and scrub with diluted acid all walls if necessary. Grate around the walls so as to shed the water.

Clean up the premises and cart away all rubbish and surplus

earth.

MISCELLANEOUS:-

The mason is to assist the other mechanics employed in the building, wherever his help is necessary and is to do all cutting and jobbing required without extra charges and leave all perfect.

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LATH AND PLASTERING:-

The plasterer is to examine and try all ceilings and partitions and angles and shall notify the carpenter of any work that is not solid, square, plumb, and true, and level.

LATH:-

Lath all walls and ceilings, and partitions and angles except the ceiling of Dining room. Lath to be the best season-dried lath free from bark, knots or stains, except where shown of metallic lath, and upright l beams. The lath to be laid 5/16" apart and breaking joints every six courses, and over all doors and windows. No lath to run across first one room to the another. No lathing in basement. Supply and properly fasten the expanded metal lath to angle irons for partitions as shown.

PLASTER

All plaster to be carried to the floors back of baseboards. There is no board in back part of house. Exterior walls to be back plastered between the furring strips, where found. No plaster in basement. The 1st., 2nd floors to have 3 coat work and the 3rd floor to have 2 coat work except in attic closets so marked.

LIME:-

Lime to be of the best quality wood burned stone lime, white slackened at least 14 days before using.

SAND:-

Sand shall be sharp and free from all clay and loam.

HAIR:-

HAIR:-

Hair to be of the best quality of clean long cattle hair and thoroughly beaten out and mixed with mortar.

THREE COAT WORK:-

First coat to have 1-1/2 bus hels of hair to one barrel of unslaked lime, and second coat to have 1/3 bushel of hair to one barrel of unslaked lime

The first coat to be put on heavy, brought to a fair surface and scratched, the second coat to be put on light

float with a long rule to a uniform surface straight and true, each coat to be thoroughly dry before the next one is applied.

The third coat is to be white hard finish, King's Windsor cement, superfine, Diamond, or Paragon to be used.

TWO COAT WORK:-

Similar to the above leaving out the second coat.

WORKMANSHIP:-

The very best work will be demanded, and no work accepted which is not true, plumb and devoid of cracks.

PATCHING:-

Any and all patching required after the mechanics have finished their work shall be done in a thorough manner.

and the whole left complete and finished in every particular.

FLAGGING:-

Take up the present flagging and reset as directed.

Take up the present flagging and reset as directed.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN THE RESIDENCE OF

AMSELY/WILCOX ESQ:- DELAWARE AVE: BUFFALO, N.Y.
George Cary Architect, Buffalo, N.Y.

April 24th., 1896.

OLD MATERIAL:-

The old wood material to become the property of the Carpenter, that which is good may be used in the new building subject to the approval of the Architect.

CLOSING IN:-

Furnish labor and material to properly close up all outside door and window openings during the progress of the work. Provide padlocks for the outside doors. The doors to be bolt-locked during the night, and holidays.

COVERING:-

Cover all wood stairwork, such as sills of windows, treads of stairs etc, from injury.

MATERIALS:-

All joist, rafters, and studs that are not exposed, to be of the best seasoned hemlock.
Doors, windows, cornices, frames etc, to be of the best seasoned pine unless other wise specified.

Floors to be of Georgia pine unless other wise specified. The finish in kitchen, laundry, kitchen pantry, and store room to be Georgia pine. All Georgia pine to be specified to be of the best quality, quarter cut, and heart faced entirely clear from all kinds of sap and other defects, and to be thoroughly kiln dried.

No finish or top floor in Dining room.

MILL CONSTRUCTION AND SIZES:-

The beams for mill construction on first floor to be of 2" x 12" wall piece. Those next to wall to be 4" x 12" and 2" x 12" wall piece. Floor joists to be 2" x 12" on the center.

rafters to be 2" x 8" on 16" centers, and valley rafter 2" x 10 ceiling joist of third floor 2" x 6" on 16" centers, studs to be 2" x 4" on 16" centers.

WALL PLATES:-

Wall plates to be 2-2" x 8" to be halved at angles and spiked and to be bolted every 6 feet by 5/8" bolts 3-0 long with nuts etc.

RAFTERS:-

Roof rafters to notch and spiked to wall plate and ridge and supporting timbers.

Timbers for Dormer, bays, etc. shall be the necessary sizes.

Headers:-

Headers to be framed into trimmers, with double tenon all headers carrying more than three tall beams to have stirrups. Tall beams to be framed into header with tusk and tenon. Frame for chimney stairs, fire-places hearths, pipes, scuttle, and other places requiring the same.

No work of any kind to be closer than 1" to a chimney.

PARTITIONS:-

Partitions studs to be strongly spiked at top and bottom angles doubled. Where partitions stand one above the other from the basement up, studding shall run from plate to plate as no resting of partition studs on floor timbers will be allowed. Where the partitions do not rest on partition below, the joist shall be in pairs, and placed on 4" centers, and the partitions are so strongly trussed as to take the weight off the middle of the joists, Truss over all openings. Frames in partitions for steam and plumbing pipes etc. where necessary.

BRIDGING:-

All floor joist to be bridged once in every six or seven feet with a continuous row of double bone cross bridging of 1" x 3" pieces cut in and nailed with two nails at each end of piece.

CENTERS:-

Provide lintels and centers. Where required by mason for all openings, truss them firm and strong.

FURRING AND WALL STRIPS:-

The entire outside and inside brick walls of the building above the first story shall be furred with hemlock strips 1" x 2" placed every 16" apart to be carefully plumbed. Furnish and have built into the wall, wall strips 1/2" x 1" placed every 8 courses of brick laid dry.

GROUNDS:-

Put on grounds where necessary behind base, architraves, wainscoting, picture moulding, and all other places needing the same, to be the necessary width and thickness to receive plaster and wood finish. All to be plumb, and securely nailed into place. There ~~is~~ no grounds or baseboards in back portion of first floor but angle bead and chair rail.

ROOFING:-

Cover the entire roof with hemlock boards, planed, laid close, 7/8" thick, nailed to every rafter, to be free from loose knots.

TARRED PAPER:-

Cover with tar paper around windows and door frames, beams, etc. that are built into masonry work.

CORNICES AND DORMERS:-

Cornice is to be similar to the cornice on front part of house, to be strongly supported. Level the rafters and give the necessary pitch for the water to flow. The corners are

to be as shown. Place on the ridge of oak roof a needle.

WINDOWS:-

The window frames are to be box frames except those in basement, which are to be solid. ~~are~~ hinged at sides except those opening the big area, which are to be sash window frames.

Sash are to be 1-5/4" thick, hung on the best quality Slaver large sash line no. 8 weights, and noiseless axles pulleys, the sash to be well balanced.

Bay window in Mrs. Wilcox's room to hinge at sides also center window in store room, and all the interior sashes where shown on plans. All the window sashes, jambes, etc. to be clear best seasoned pine.

The lower part of center window in store room to have a door for ice.

SCREENS:-

All windows, throughout except basement to have the lower part supplied with Burrows patent fly screens, each screen and window being numbered in the basement window frame to be supplied and placed close iron screens not proof.

FLOORS:-

First floor pine beams are to be set in the masonry work and beveled off at ends at least 3" and are to rest on iron plates, which are supplied and built in by the mason. The beams are to be grooved to fit in on plates. On the beams place 3" planks 8" wide, each plank is to be leaded run groove to 3/4" in depth, and the groove is to be filled with a strip of hard wood 5/8" x 1-1/2". The glue run under the strip. The exposed planks and beams are to be planed and well finished. All to be of pine. Over the plank lay the best seasoned quartered out Georgia pine 7/8" thick and 2-1/2" wide.

There will be no flooring in the kitchen store room as that will be asphalt floor.

Second and third floors to have a double floor. The first to be 7/8" hemlock or old floor to be laid diagonally covering this flooring with felt paper and then lay a flooring of the best seasoned grade I pine flooring 7/8" thick and 2-1/2" wide.

All flooring to be tongued, grooved, and nailed at every joist, and to be thoroughly seasoned and laid level and smooth and to be planed off on first floor after it is laid, and elsewhere if not smooth.

Flooring to be the last thing done in the rooms.

DOORS:- Doors to be rebated. In basement and third floor old doors to be used.

The doors on the first and second floors to be of the width marked on drawings, and the height to be the same as the windows so as that the casings of the doors and windows will be the same height from the second floor.

The thickness of the doors to be 1-3/4" and to be of pine unless otherwise specified.

The panelling to be as shown on section.

The doors in kitchen, laundry, store room, kitchen, butlers pantry to be of Georgia pine. Panels, the styles being of clear white pine.

STRIKERS:- All door openings shall have rubber tipped strikers in wood corresponding to the finish of rooms.

ROOF:- Roof is covered with tin, floor is laid in pine with

full white lead joints; nailed at every joint. Ceiling to be ceiled with pine, posts, rails, balustraded, cornice, etc to be of pine, all as shown on scale and full size drawings.

RAV:- Roof to be covered with tin. All to be done according to detail drawings.

STAIRS:- To be built as per drawings. The stairs shall have moulded treads, 1-1/4" thick housed, glued, wedged, and blocked into stringers. Risers to be 7/8" thick tongued into treads. Treads and risers to be Georgia pine, Newels and balustrades to be shape indicated.

The landing to have a 2" plank resting on beams and over plank lay 7/8" Georgia pine flooring. No plaster on under side of stairw.

Build the regular rough strings for mason to complete his work, setting up this staircase after the plaster is dry

FINISH:- To all door and window openings except basement furnish and fix into place a six inch casing to have plinth block in every case the casing to go to the floor.

The casings in pantries, and closets to be perfectly plain. Window openings to have moulded stools and panel unit.

On first floor except in kitchen, laundry, pantries, & closets, and second floor place a 10" moulded base and on third floor an 8" base.

In above named rooms as excepted floor on marble moulding and 4" chair rail.

When double flooring is used the lower shall be fixed

into place before finish floors are laid.

No finish in Dining room in this contract.

No wainscoting anywhere.

Pantries,

Finish all pantries and store rooms with Georgia pine. the cupboards drawers, and shelves as shown on 3/4" scale detail. Drawers shall be numbered shown and shall be dovetailed together. No backing as plaster is to be painted.

Shelves to be movable and to rest on shelf pins, sunk into shelves.

Make grooved sink boards, put a groove in shelves and counter shelves.

CLOSETS:-

Closets to have shelves and drawers as marked on the plans and drawings and 3/4" scale details. Place in each closet cloths strips.

MISCELLANEOUS:-

Build bottle racks in wine cellar where shown, place at proper angle, and notched and cut for bottles.

Build in Vegetable cellar a rack of standing shelves, and two racks of hanging shelves, all strongly supported.

Make two coal bins, strong and movable sides as directed in the picture on the kitchen chambers, & servant hall.

Supply and place where shown on plans inside blinds, similar to those in the front part of the house.

No mantels in this contract.

Build a scuttle where indicated on plans and heating ladder for same.

Make towel roller in kitchen and laundry.

Put up boards with beaded edge for chimney to fasten his

(8)

Pipes where needed, and inclose the same with boards screwed down where shown; or desired.

INTERIOR FINISH:-

Wood for interior finish shall be dry, seasoned and kiln dried.

Protect all wood work that is to be done in natural finish from stains.

HARDWARE:-

All constructive hardware to be supplied by contractor, such as stirrups, anchors, which are to be fastened to every frame that is built into the masonry, there will be four for each supply pulleys, for windows, etc.

All finish or trimmings to be supplied by owner but placed by contractor.

GENERAL:-

The carpenter must call upon the painter to prime all exterior finish before putting up, or immediately afterwards.

The carpenter shall do any or all ordinary cutting required by mason, plumber, gas fitter, or heating contractor and such cuttings finished in a neat and workmanlike manner

J. H. Penrich & Sons.

RECIPIATION FOR THE PAINTING AND GLAZING FOR
PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN THE RESIDENCE OF

ANDREY WILCOX ESQ, DELAWARE AVE:- SUFFADO, N.Y.

George Cary Architect, Buffalo N.Y.

April 24th., 1896.

Contractor is to furnish all material, which is to be of the best and pure linseed oil is to be used. The color to be selected by the architect. Expert labor required to complete the work.

OUTSIDE:-

Paint all outside finish such as porches, cornices, windows, doors, etc with 3 coats of paint.

The tin will receive one coat of paint by the tinner, but painter is required to give it another coat of paint, and also includes the roof and the tin flashing.

The outside of house to receive three coats of paint and the front part to receive one coat on wood only.

INTERIOR:-

All interior finish to receive three coats of paint unless otherwise specified.

The dining room ^{or living room} will not be painted.

The kitchen, store room, laundry, kitchen and outlers porches will receive one coat of white alcohol sh ellac, and two coats of varnish. the varnish to be worth at least \$3.00 per gallon.

All floors to have one coat of filling, one coat of shellac, and one coat of oil, and to be finished with gutta percha finish put on in the best manner.

KNOTS:-

kill all knots or stains with a coat of strong shellac before priming.

(2)

PUTTY:-

Knife putty all nail holes, etc. after the prime coat has dried. If necessary before last coat; color the putty to match the paint to be used.

PAINTING:-

No painting shall be done while the material is damp or during damp or rainy weather. Contractor will be responsible for all damage done by rain, or wind or any other cause.

SAND PAPER:-

Sand paper all inside finish, rubbing with the grain, and clear out all mouldings before the first coat.

GLAZING:-

Follow plans for glazing all windows, doors, partitions, etc.

All work to be bedded, back puttied, & tacked.

All glass to be the plate ~~American~~, except in 3rd story,

and basement ~~American~~ ~~glass~~ ~~which~~ ~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~double~~ ~~American~~,

Give separate item of saving in using double American in place of plate glass.

Lead: glays in ~~chamber~~ ~~above~~ ~~the~~ ~~dining~~ ~~room~~ ~~as~~ ~~shown~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~plans~~ ~~attached~~.

The plate work to be thoroughly cleaned, and left whole and perfect to complete this contract.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR SHEET METAL & GALVANIZED IRON FOR
PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO THE RESIDENCE OF

ANSLEY WILCOX ESQ. - DELAWARE AVE., BUFFALO, N. Y.
George Cary, Architect, Buffalo, N. Y.

April 24th., 1896.

All roofs shall be covered with one ply tarred felt & paper breaking joints. The roof to be covered with IX Merchant tin painted on both sides, The seam to be the standing seam. The work to be similar to that on roof on front part of house.

Build saddle back of chimneys.

Line roof gutters and give them the necessary slope to let the water run off.

Make a separate bid for copper gutters, and copper saddle. Prepare and fix up outside galvanized corrugated leaders and connect the same to iron pipes brought to the surface by plumber.

Flash and counterflash over all decks, cornices, chimney and other projections, and at the intersection of roof with brick wall, etc. The counter flash to be extra deep.

Imp. Henrich & Sons

PLUMBER'S SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RESIDENCE OF
ANSLEY WILCOX, ESQ. DELAWARE AVE. - BUFFALO, N. Y.

George Cary Architect, Buffalo, N. Y.
April 28th., 1896.

All plumbing for the house for Ansley Wilcox, Esq., Delaware Ave., Buffalo, N. Y. shall be strictly a first class job according to the action of the Board of Health and as their specifications read, and to be completed by September 15th., the rough work being done so as not to delay painting.

The general conditions found in these specifications shall hold good where they may be applied.

BASMENT:-

In toilet room place a ~~without~~ ^{with} C. porcelain, the ^{5" x 8" x 12" in size} ~~Primo~~ ^{Primo} L. Mott or as good. And one wash basin ~~48" x 24" in size~~ complete with fittings or as good.

LAUNDRY:-

In laundry place three Mott's Yorkmire tubs, wooden rims cemented, and supply and place ground key faucet for hot and cold water to each of the three tubs.

KITCHEN:-

In kitchen place one 20 x 30 kitchen Yorkmire sink on brackets, to suit, with brass cocks and (896-G sink (other)

Furnish and connect one overhanging 100 gallon copper hot water boiler with iron brackets in wall, cocks and complete. Furnish and connect the same to No. 6 George B. Clark water heater with 1/2" drill regulator and all necessary connections.

Butlers Pantry.

Supply and place a 14" x 20" butlers pantry and collect sink with nickel plated rollers and brass cocks for use and coin

1896-24

TOILET ROOM IN SILEY HALL:-

Supply and place one W. G. (porcelain) the "Primo,"
1198-O L Mott or as good, and one wash basin 488-Motts
or as good,

SCUWANTS BATH ROOM:-

1 Porcelain washout closet.
1 Sit. 140 steel eled bath tub with puller double cock
overflow, hot and cold water (fittings to suit) complete.
Place on brackets in each at service to basin, slaus, a
and fixtures supplied by owner.

BATH ROOMS:-

Supply and place in each bath room.
1 porcelain closet Primo 1198-O Mott in each.
1 5 ft., Corona tub with roll-rim wolfe D 5202 53 for Puller
double cock, overflow, hot and cold water (fittings to suit)
in each.
1 porcelain lavatory, ivory tinted, straight front, oval basin
unique waste and with En Es faucets 420-D size I (27 x20)
plate 488-Motts in each.

WATER CLOSETS:-

All water closets to be finished complete with traps,
hard wood seat, fixed to seat with nickel plated fasteners.
The tank to be 24" x 10" inside mea urement, rounded corners,
and bottom and lined with 14 oz tin & planished copper. Each
to be supplied with a brass system, brass compressor ball
and cock and 4" copper ball float, crank, lever, and related
safety pin with handles and chain complete. Connections with
soil pipe to be through 4" lead pipe and brass ferralls.
The tanks to be fastened to wall on nickel plated brackets to
suit.

LOCAL VENTS:-

Each water closets of South side to have a 2" local vent
pipe run into a vent system connected in the attic and fixed
with a light contröler and made complete for use, and connect
connected to chimney, etc

VENTILATION:-

Each water closet to be ventilated by a 2" iron lead
lined pipe beyond the water seal and carried up above the
highest fixture.

Each bath, sink, and washbasin to have its trap
ventilated through a 2" pipe to main vent.

WASTES:-

Each basin to have its waste through a 1-1/2" diameter
lead pipe if possible with a 1-1/2" S trap fixed close to the
outlet with a brass cleaning screw.

Be sure and have water der-iced off.

SILL COCKS:-

Put on outside in ground South and North sides of house
where shown a 3/4" sill cock with screw hose and key to turn
off.

STRAINERS:-

Use rear area and the laundry floor to have brass
strainers, for surface drainages and make all necessary connec-
tions also connect conductor pipes and outside tile sewer.

SEWER SERVICE:-

The plumber is to connect the system to the present pipe
excavate, and lay and complete the service in cellars.

3/4" galvanized iron pipe to bath, sink, etc. etc.
cocks, and rollers.

4 The tubs, bath and sinks, to waste through a 2" pipe with 2"
S trap fixed close to the outlet with a brass cleaning screw.

PIPES:-

1/2" galvanized iron pipes to wash basins, all sewer closets. All piping, supply, soil and drain are to be put up in the best manner fastened with nut chains, and nuts as required or iron hooks and stays. All joints to be caulked with melted lead.

All soil, drain, and waste pipes inside the building to be of iron extra heavy of the best quality, equal to Mott's make, thoroughly coated inside, and outside before putting up and give one good coat afterwards of asphaltum. At foot of a all soil pipes place brass cleaning screws.

Supply all proper fittings extra heavy.

Soil pipes are to be cr. and straight up from attachment to outlet on roof of one size (4") thoroughly trapped ventilated before entering the sewer, which must be brought from the street, to the house. Sewer and run to be properly graded, trapped etc. according to the City rules. Supply iron air inlet as directed South and North sides of the house using the North side one as a hitching post 6' high. 25 feet from the house.

S trap to have accessible hand valves.

All joints in lead pipes to be wiped joints.

All junctions between iron and lead lined pipes and trap to be made with brass ferrules of same size as pipes joints wiped at the lead end and caulked at the iron.

TEST OF WORK:-

After the work is completed the plumber is to apply the water test to all soil pipes, and if any defect is found he is to make it good, and again test as before, and as an until the whole system is found perfect. and ~~emphasize~~ ~~thoroughly~~ apply the smoke test after all fixtures are complete

PAINTING:-

Paint all the plumbing piping with red-oxide or black paint.

X ILLUSTRATION:-

Now gas service from main in direct to meter in ceiling. Piping for gas lighting to be provided and placed where shown on plans. All connections made to the meter. All permits procured, and all bills paid to leave in working order and the whole made perfect and good as per Gas Co. rules.

Grade the pipes and arrange where necessary for draining of accumulated water.

X NATURAL OR FURN. GAS:-

Piping for fuel gas to be provided and placed where ~~shown on plans~~ brought to the furnace and to the kitchen and all fireplaces. All connections made to meter, and all permits procured and the whole perfect and good as per Gas Co. rules, tested etc. All necessary valves and keys provided.

Place a stop cock to turn off all supply to each system of fixtures.

W. W. W. W.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE HEATING FOR RESIDENCE OF

ANSLEY WILCOX, ESQ. DELAWARE AVENUE, BUFFALO, N.Y.

George Cary Architect, Buffalo, N.Y.

April 28th, 1896.

Heating and Ventilating.

Specifications of the work required to be done and the material furnished to do, and complete the entire hot water heating apparatus for thoroughly heating the residence of Ansley Wilcox, Esq., in the most extreme cold weather according to plans and specifications, and to the full satisfaction of the owner and architect. Contractor is to furnish everything requisite and necessary to the perfect working and completeness of the apparatus, whether such several items be herein mentioned or not. Contractor is to guarantee that the water shall circulate freely throughout the entire building.

To the water register
apparatus and that apparatus shall be of ample capacity to warm the air in each room with which it is connected to a temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit ^{when} ~~at~~ the thermometer outside registers Park, zero and ~~and~~ ^{and} the water registers not above 60 degrees.

The plans accompanying these specifications are to be considered an integral part and anything omitted from the one and embodied in the other is to be considered essential to the requirements of the apparatus and contract, and must be furnished and put in ~~in~~ ^{by} the contractor.

If the heat be required in any part of the building before the work is completed, the owner will furnish the fuel or gas for generating the same and fireman to take care of it said fireman to be under the supervision of the contractor

and the contractor to be responsible for any damage occurring to the apparatus for such temporary use.

The contractor at his own expense is to furnish such items as may be necessary to make the apparatus ~~complete~~

competent to fulfill the complete working and heating of the house whether described or not in these specifications as

they are intended to thoroughly cover the whole that no extras may arise. *Connect the system in the kitchen part to the new heater so as to heat the*
Contractor is to keep the apparatus in repair for one year after its final acceptance.

HEATER:-

The contractor is to name his own heater in his estimate and to be furnished complete with all necessary castings, fixtures, shaking grates, and trimmings, and arrange for the present use of gas with all necessary equipments for future use of coal if necessary.

MASONRY:-

Heater to be set on a suitable stone foundation, and enclosed in substantial stock brick masonry, on an asbestos jacket, as per plans and furnished by the manufacturers.

PIPE TOOLS & TRIMMINGS:-

Furnish one poker, 3 or 4 lbs, one slice bar, one shovel, one flue brush, one 15" screw wrench, and one hot water thermometer.

SMOKE CONNECTIONS:-

From outlet on heater, run a smoke pipe to and connect with chimney flue, said pipe to be made of No. 20 galvanized iron, and to be the required diameter, properly fitted with a turn damper, and suitable lifting check ~~check~~ ^{ball} ~~out~~ door S, to admit or being cleaned while in position. ~~and~~ ^{ball} ~~elbow~~ ^{to be a} four-piece, round elbow, and where pipe enters ~~into~~ ^{work} it is to be surrounded with a collar of the same material as

the pipe.

INDIRECT RADIATION:-

Install and erect in basement stacks of indirect radiators, containing in all square feet of radiation, said radiators to be the "standard" pin indirect radiators, and to be put together without the use of any packing material and to be supported on basement brick walls, or suspended from first floor joists by one half inch round iron hangers secured to joist with 1/2" X 3" coach screws, hanger bars to be made of 1-1/4" pipe, with thread and lock nut on end of same. (see table)

STACK CASINGS:-

Each stack to be encased at top, bottom and four sides, with narrow matched and well seasoned 1 7/8" pine flooring, of good quality and free from loose knots.

The bottom end two of the sides to be fastened with screws to admit of their being taken apart at any time, and the edge of all exposed sides to be finished with neat strips, 7/8" X 3" with beveled edge.

The top and four sides, to a level with bottom of radiators, to be lined first with asbestos paper, and then with bright tin, closely fitted and nailed, at least every 2" along the laps.

The space between radiators and sides of casings to be stopped off with tin, and said tin to run up at least 6" against the sides of radiators, so that all air passing up to the hot air chamber, will be brought into contact with the radiators.

COLD AIR DUCTS:-

From basement ceiling, install cold air ducts to and connect with the bottom of stacks, said ducts to be made of the same material and to be finished same as specified for

stack casings, and to have a cross sectional area of one square inch for every square foot of radiating surface in the

stack, ducts to be fitted with Bate's lever attachment with turn dampers to control the supply of air, and openings of ample size, with doors, to be made in the bottom of stacks to admit of using inside air.

Cold air supply from basement openings to be so arranged so as to least obstruct the light, and to have galvanized iron wire screens, (1/4" mesh) on the outside. Place air filters that may be easily removed and cleaned over each opening and make sure that openings be larger on their account to allow for any obstructions.

Tin Flues

From the stack warm air will be conveyed to the several rooms through flues, made of IX bright tin, of sizes shown on plans, to be well fitted and soldered, and to have asbestos paper pasted on out side, and the flues near outside walls to have 3/4" hair felt, wired on with No. 18 brass wire to protect same from cold air currents.

REGISTERS:-

Registers to be of the size marked on plans, to be of Tuttle and Bailey's make, with nickel-plated faces, of pattern as directed by architects.

EXPANSION TANK

Install expansion tank and set in attic a tank riveted, galvanized - iron expansion tank, 12" in diameter and 4'-0" high, and provide and connect to said tank, one water closet tank, for an automatic water-feeder, and connect the two tanks together with a springing check valve in the connection.

PIPE AND FITTINGS:-

Gas heater, radiators, and tanks, to be connected by pipes of sizes and runs as shown on plans. All floor pipes shall

grade up from heater to radiators with a pitch of at least 3/4 1/2" to 10'-0" in length. The return pipes will run down from radiators to heater, with same pitch as above, all pipes excepting the returns from stacks, will be hung from basement ceiling, by suitable iron hangers, arranged so that expansion may occur without injury to joints near building.

The returns from stacks to be carried on side walls of basement.

The indirect radiators to be set at such a height, and to be so tapered that flow pipes will connect with same, without vertical drop connections.

From the high point on flow pipes to indirect radiators, connect a 3/8" air pipe, and run these pipes into one 1/2" main pipe, and run said main pipe to, and connect with the line to expansion tank.

Run a 3/4" pipe from water main to heater, with stop cock (cut-acting-check valve in the connection.)

Run a 1-1/4" pipe from heater to sewer with a stop cock in the connection

Run a 1/2" pipe from the water main to the ball cock on automatic water feeder, and place a stop and waste cock in the connection in the basement, and an asbestos disc globe valve at the automatic water feeder.

Run two 1" pipes (flow and return) to a point above under expansion tanks and there connect them together, to keep water in tank warm.

Run an overflow pipe from each of the two tanks, and connect them into one 1-1/4" pipe, and run this pipe to basement, and there let it drip over a sink or other

receptacle, as directed by architect.

Where practicable all connections to each room radiators are to come through the base boards instead of through the floors.

All final connections 2" or smaller in diameter, are to be made with right and left hand threads, and all connections to heater are to have right and left coupling or flange unions in in the connections.

All passages of pipes through brick walls are to have cast iron ferrules built into the walls, and all passages through floors, partitions, etc., are to have tin ferrules the full thickness of partitions or floor joists.

All pipes above basement are to be tested with the City water pressure, after they are in permanent position.

~~Run two pairs of risers to each radiator to admit of extra valves.~~

All fittings are to be heavy cast iron, and are to reduce in size without the use of bushings.

Where main return pipe crosses doorways near boiler it is to be below the basement floor, enclosed in a brick trench laid in cement with a cast iron, checkered cover, 1/2" thick and 15" wide.

VALVES:-

At each stack of indirect radiators, on each first floor radiator, and each rising line to the upper floors are to have a gate valve, of approved make in the connecting pipe in the basement. Place tees in the connections beyond gate valves with 3/4" steam cock, arranged for attaching hose thereto, so that any fixtures may be shut off, and without disturbing the balance of apparatus.

Each of the above valves to have brass wa tags fastened to same, and stamped with the name of the room which they control.

The two valves in the line to expansion tank are to have key stems, with shield and key, and the brass tags fastened on these valves, to be stamped "Not to be closed".

In each ^{air} line connection place a 3/8" globe valve and in each stack of indirect radiators, place a 1/4" air cock.

COVERING:-

All heating pipes in the basement, and the tank and connections to same, in the third floor, are to be covered with magnum bestos.

BRONZING:-

All direct radiators and all exposed pipes above the basement are to be neatly bronzed in color, as directed by architects.

All labor to be performed by skilled mechanics, and all material to be the best of their several kinds that the market affords, and to be subject to the approval and acceptance of the architect.

PAINTING (DIRECT)

Furnish and set where shown on plans direct radiators containing in all square feet of radiating surface. Radiators to be cast iron best peerless or square ornamental, top pattern or make approved by architect, the radiator in butler's pantry to be made as shown in Bunch catalogue complete for flats warmer.

Each direct radiator to be fitted with one "Ideal" patent radiator valve with wood wassel, and finished with nickel plated air valves with bibb nozzle and shield, to be

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operated with a key, where connecting pipes pass through floors or base-boards, they are to have nickel plated plates surrounding the pipes. (see table)

REGULATOR:-

Supply and place a #4 Powers regulator.

D. L. Jackson & Davis

SPECIFICATIONS FOR HARDWOOD FINISH OF
RESIDENCE OF ANSELEY WILCOX:- ESQ.,
DELAWARE AVE- BUFFALO, N. Y.

George Cary, Architect, Buffalo, N. Y.
July 20th., 1896.

Bids to be received on or before Aug^r 30th., 1896.
This contract to be entirely fulfilled by October 20th.,
provided the contract is let by Sept. 8th., 1896., if not
let until after Sept. 8th., an equal time is to be added for
completion.

Where ~~the~~ separate items or alternative bids are called
for they must be given in estimate under the headings A. to D
etc or the bid will be considered informal.

LIVING ROOM:- 3/4" scale drawing numbers 38-39-40-41.

The ceiling to receive three coat-patent plaster on
expanded metal lath. The cornice to be in plaster or wood
and if wood all necessary ceiling grounds to be supplied and
placed.

A1- Itemize the cost of Plaster ceiling, 7

B2- Itemize the cost of Wood ceiling, 1

All visible wood to be the best selected pine or white
wood, except the doors which are to be veneered birch. (see
spec. and any carved work which may be required.)

See 2/49 scale drawings number 38-39-30-31-32-34.

Work is all in the general contract, including the
carved work, except the doors which are in this contract.

to be finished in red oak (not quartered cut) See sample of
the finish in office here.

Carved panels about mantel, and tiep of wainscoting to
be similar workmanship as in office here.

DOORS:-

The Living room doors to be veneered in red oak with
finish like rest of that room. In Hall like-wise in Dining-
room. they are to be veneered in best quality selected birch
uniform in color to be finished as follows:- *See finish.*

FLOORS:-

See 1/4" scale plan sheet number 4.

In Living room best seasoned red oak floors. and in
Dining room and front hall of old house quartered cut oak as
already contracted for in back hall. Floors to be 7/8" x 2"
matched selected and laid with the best of care, with strips
filling bases. All guaranteed not to warp or shrink and
to be the last thing done in the house. laid over sheathing
paper, and scraped to a smooth ~~surface~~ level & plumb surface.

The blinds in the ~~bedroom~~ to correspond with rest
of the finish, to be guaranteed to work, with shutter boxes, &
as detailed to be of the same finish as blinds.

The constructive hardware to be supplied by the contrac-
tor. The trimmings for doors, blinds, etc are to be supplied
by owner.

All carving such as shown to be accurately followed from
spec. and to be done to the satisfaction of the architect.

STOCK:-

All stock must be air seasoned, and must be placed in a
dry place ~~before use~~ before use.

TO WHOM THE DRAWINGS BELONG:-

It is distinctly agreed that all drawings are the property of the Architect, and must be returned to him. Further no future use is to be made nor any of them in detail to be reproduced on other work. No extra allowed without the written order of the Architect, and no change in drawing or work without his consent. Should it be necessary for the Architect or his clerk to visit the factory to inspect the work his expenses and 10¢ per day shall be paid him by the contractor.

SUPERINTENDENCE:-

The contractor is to give his personal superintendence to the work, which is to be commenced at once, and finished and the rooms ready for occupancy the date above named. Also to furnish all labor, transportation, material, apparatus, scaffolding, and utensils for the full performance of the work herein described, in the best manner according to true intent and meaning either expressed or implied, either of these specifications or of the drawings accompanying them.

QUALITY OF THE WORK:-

All work and material to be of the best quality in all cases, unless herein especially set forth to the contrary, subject to the approval or rejection of the Architect, to be finished with all the expedition consistent with skill and good workmanship.

TERMINATION:-

Any part of the work to be undertaken unless by the express order of the Architect.

FORCE:-

The work to be commenced at once and completed in every respect to the satisfaction of the Architect on or before the date above named.

And in event of failure of Contractor to complete it he shall pay to the owner, for each and every day succeeding the date hereby fixed upon, the sum of \$20.00 a day to be taken out as a penalty but as ascertained and liquidated damages from the contractors to the owner.

FIGURED DRAWINGS:-

The drawings are to be accurately followed according to their scale dimensions, but figured dimensions always to be preferred.

NUMBER AND CHARACTER OF DRAWINGS:-

The Architect will supply sufficient ~~plans~~ detail drawings (including full size drawings of matted and curved work) to enable contractor to carry out design completely. Any work constructed without such drawings or not in accordance with specifications ~~and~~ directions of the Architect must be removed and replaced by correct work, at the expense of Contractor.

POWER OF ARCHITECT:-

The Architect to have full power to reject any material or work, he may think of unsound character and cause same to be immediately removed, or reconstructed at contractor's expense, in case of whose refusal to comply with Architect's orders the latter is to have full power to procure material ~~and~~ have it done by other workmen; and to charge the expense ~~of~~ incurred to the contractor, and to deduct same from ~~any~~ ~~amount~~ due to become due him.

ALTERATIONS AND VARIATIONS:-

The Architect to have power to make any alterations or additions he may think proper to plans signed by contractor, ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~made~~ ~~without~~ ~~the~~ ~~contractor's~~ ~~consent~~ ~~and~~ ~~without~~ ~~any~~ ~~additional~~ ~~cost~~.

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Provided always the said alterations and additions do not cost more than has been specified and contracted for. In case of additional cost, the price and agreement must be made before the addition or alteration are undertaken. If upon any order of alteration or addition the contractor thinks himself entitled to additional time he must claim it immediately and before undertaking the work and the Architect must pass upon such claims, and fix the additional time, if any to be so allowed before the order is finally given; otherwise no additional time shall be allowed.

CONFORMITY OF DRAWINGS:-

Contractor to cause details of work to be carried out in strict conformity with working drawings, of Architect.

The work to be done by skillful mechanics.

OMISSIONS & DISCREPANCIES:-

Contractors to take no advantage of any manifest omissions or discrepancies that may be found to exist between plans and specifications, and in all disagreements or differences as to sizes, material, workmanship, etc. The decision of the Architect upon his own plans and specifications is to be final and binding on the contractor.

Meyer

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ELECTRICAL BELLS AND SPEAKING TUBES

Ansley Wilcox, Esq., Delaware Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

Electric Bells.

Front door to a 6" skeleton bell in Servant's hall. Side hall entrance to a single call in kitchen. Place a Western Electrical best style Annunciator in Servant's sitting room. and connect with push button in the following rooms:-

Parlor, Library, Living room, Dining room, and 6 bed room.

Place a 4 Annunciator in Hall, Servant's floor, and connect with buttons in the following rooms:- Mrs. Wilcox's room

Run lines of speaking tubes as follows.

Kitchen 1st. floor to Servant's hall third floor.

Second story hall to Servant's sitting room.

Provide a flexible speaking tube 1-1/2 feet long for 2nd. floor opening. All other openings to have heavy nickel plated whistles with flanges spun on.

At each speaking tube opening, provide a hard wood rosette and fasten speaking tube whistles with screws.

Place a push button directly under the mouth piece in second story front hall, and connect with buzzer in the kitchen and top floor, both to ring at the same time. battery for bell in the cellar. in a finishing cupboard of hard wood, with hinges and lock on door.

All wires to be run through porcelain tubes run on insulators. Care being taken to prevent any possibility of ground or short circuits on the wires;

Flexing tubes must be all hand soldered heavy tin tubing with round elbows; run in the best manner, and painted with P & B paint after being placed.

ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RESIDENCE OF
Ansley Milcox, Esq., Malabar Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

Office of Geo. Cary, Architect,
154 Malabar Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

June 10th, 1895.

CONDUITS.

The building shall be equipped from switch-board to each outlet with iron around insulating conduits, in such manner as to form continuous channels for the wire. A separate tube shall be provided for each riser, from the switch-board to the junction box on each floor. These tubes to be connected the same as gas or steam pipes, and made gas tight. Conduit shall be firmly secured to the building and run in such manner that the wires may be drawn in, withdrawn and reinserted at any time without disturbing finished work. Junction boxes, switch boxes and outlet boxes shall be made of entirely incombustible material and of sizes and shapes to accommodate the necessary wires and fixtures. The doors or face plates of all junction boxes must be of metal, of quality and finish to correspond with hardware used in the immediate neighborhood

id boxes.

Conductors shall be of copper, having a conductivity of not less than ninety-six (96) percent of pure copper. All conductors shall be insulated with rubber having a substantial braided covering. The layer of rubber next the conductor shall be free from sulphur. All wires shall be continuous from

(2)

switch-board to junction box, and from junction box to outlets without joints or splices.

LOSS OF POTENTIAL.

All wires are to be made of such sizes, that with all lights called for in the plans building there will be no undue heating and the loss of potential between switch-board and any other outlet will not be greater than five percent and the variation between any two outlets will not be greater than two percent (2%), and the loss of potential between the switch-board and any junction box will not be greater than two percent (2%).

The loss of potential to be based on the use of a standard lamp of 100 volts, having an efficiency of 3.8 watts per candle power. No wire shall be smaller than No.14 B. & S.

All wiring shall be for the parallel two wire system of distribution.

All twin conductors, and all conductors larger than No.10 B. & S. shall be stranded.

INSULATION.

Each circuit, from the switch-board connected through to all outlets shall show an insulation resistance of at least one megohm between the positive and negative wires, and between either wire and the ground. With the whole system connected together, the insulation resistance must not be less than 500,000 ohms under some circumstances.

All switches to be furnished and connected by this contractor and to be known as C- & S. flush switches; to be finished to correspond with surrounding hardware.

Switches to be located in the following places, as per plans and specifications.

(3)

switches for emergency light at main convalescent ward entrance by owner.

switch in upstairs hall controlling down stairs hall near safe.

CUTOOTS:-

All necessary main and branch cutout are to be furnished and put in place throughout the building by the contractor. all of which are to be double poled and mounted on combustible material. Fuses of suitable capacity, with copper terminals and plainly stamped with their rated capacity, to be supplied for all cutouts.

All wires, switches, cutouts, and other appliances called for in these specifications, must be approved by the Architect before being installed.

Riser tubes from switch board to point in basement where they pass up through floors are to run on ceiling of the basement.

No. circuits	AMP.	OLD	NEW
Basement	8	4	Basement
First floor	18	8	First floor
Second floor	21	12	Second floor
Third floor	0	4	Third floor.

Appendix D

Edwine N. Mitchell, "The Wilcox Mansion and Mrs. Wilcox' Class," from *Niagara Frontier* (vol. 14, Spring 1967), pp. 5-7.

The Wilcox Mansion and Mrs. Wilcox' Class

by Edwine N. Mitchell

The Wilcox House, it is hoped, will be saved at last. Thanks to the indomitable efforts of Representative Thaddeus J. Dulski, the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Committee (combining the efforts of many of our citizens), and the Liberty Bank, the Congress has passed legislation authorizing Federal funds for acquisition and partial restoration provided local support for additional renovation and maintenance can be found. The newly-formed Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, successor to the Committee, is now continuing the efforts to obtain this support. The historical importance of the House is undeniable; the many Presidents and other distinguished visitors who were entertained within its hospitable portals and the important events that transpired there, are history.

Not so much is known of its social aura at the turn of the century. Mr. and Mrs. Ansley Wilcox were considered leaders of Society. In those days society was spelled with a big "S" and received due reverence. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, however, carried their sense of responsibility for their position far beyond its more frivolous aspects, and strove to represent the best in civic interest, and in the cultural and literary life of the community.

The pleasant living room of the Wilcox mansion was for many years the meeting place of "Mrs. Wilcox' Class," or merely "The Class," generally pronounced with a very broad "a", the enduring, cultural, reading group which still exists today. It was, in a sense, the feminine counterpart of the masculine "Thursday Club," which was started in 1883. "The Class" composed originally of a few distinguished older women, and an attractive group of young marrieds, was inaugurated in the 1890s by Mrs. Edward O. Wolcott, who had married two government figures, one of them a senator. She was a remarkable woman of extreme vitality, who had traveled extensively, had lived in Washington and Buffalo and had maintained an elaborate estate in the Genesee Valley. While in Washington she had started classes of this type. In its infancy, the Class met in her house, but, when she left Buffalo, it was taken over by Mrs. Wilcox, and Mrs. Wolcott

attended whenever she was in town. Besides these ladies, the Class comprised, as far as can be ascertained, Miss Maria Love, Mrs. Lawrence Rumsey and her daughters, Gertrude (afterward Mrs. Carleton Smith), and Evelyn (later Mrs. Walter Lord), Miss Evelyn Fiske, Mrs. Frank Fiske, Mrs. Louis Babcock, Mrs. Henry Ware Sprague, Mrs. William T. Atwater, Mrs. Albert A. Noye, Mrs. Daniel Wilcox (later Mrs. Ernest Hill), Mrs. Robert K. Root, Miss Mabel Wilcox, Mrs. James L. Crane, Mrs. Guillaume Gomez, Mrs. Porter Norton, Mrs. Arnold Watson, Mrs. James McCormick Mitchell, Mrs. Chaunsey (now Mrs. William J. Donovan), later Mrs. Thomas Cook). Some years later, Mrs. Wilcox felt that, for the preservation of the Class, a younger element should be introduced. In 1910, the first of this younger element was added in the person of Miss Edwine Noye, the daughter of Mrs. Albert A. Noye, Grace Noye, of whom they were all very fond, had died suddenly in Italy, and sympathy for her twenty-year old bereaved daughter made her seem an appropriate choice for the honor. Shortly thereafter, the three nieces of Mrs. Wilcox, Miss Margery Sawyer, Miss Mary Wilcox (now Mrs. George Plimpton), Miss Ruth Rumsey Hamlin, and Miss Frances Wilcox were added; not long after that, Mrs. Harold T. Clement, Mrs. Alfred Hull Clark, and Mrs. Henry Ten Eyck Perry.

The interior of the Wilcox Mansion was in the best tradition of the 1890s. It was a house of dark woodwork and dark carved furniture, upholstered in velvet and brocade that was carefully protected with handsome lace antimacassars. Many bookcases overflowing with books, portraits, tapestries, and small objets d'art from all over the world attested to the background and taste of the family. The sun streamed through the high southern windows above the wide window seat onto the many comfortable chairs and sofas occupied by the elegant ladies. The open fire crackled briskly in the green-tiled fireplace. Mrs. Wilcox presided with gracious benignity from her wheelchair beside it. She was a woman of great intellectual power and presence, a true "grande dame" of the old school, as were also Miss Maria Love, and Mrs. Rumsey.

In the spring Mrs. Wilcox, in conference with library authorities, decided on the program for the following year, and the ladies were given an opportunity to choose their subsidiary subjects and dates at that time. In its first years the class members had written papers, but this procedure was soon

abandoned for a compilation of excerpts from the writings of more experienced authors. Even so, it was a serious business. The members were supposed to devote themselves to study and research all summer long. Careful selection was all-important, and controversial subjects were to be avoided, as well as undue emphasis on battle scenes. The general subject for the year was nearly always historical: a country, a period, the development of a movement; or biography, occasionally a group of famous letters. Mrs. Wilcox and the other older ladies were very broadminded, and listened to some of the more shocking passages from Greek and Russian literature with equanimity as long as they were written by authors of repute.

It was an intelligent group, and Mrs. Wilcox kept its members strictly in line. The Class met every Monday from November to April. It was expected that all calendars should be cleared for that day. Only severe illness, sudden death, or absence from town for a short time was accepted as an excuse. Longer absenteeism demanded resignation. Everyone must be seated and ready to begin when the clock struck three. The reading must be exactly timed to fill the required two hours between three and five. In planning her winter's wardrobe each woman made careful selection of a costume for the Monday Class. The work with which the ladies occupied themselves during the reading must be of an appropriate elegance, such as tating, embroidery, or petit point. Knitting was frowned upon because of the clicking of the needles, as was also any more spectacular occupation such as the dressing of dolls at Christmas time. The minds of the ladies must not be disturbed in their tranquil absorption of information.

The reader generally arrived on her annual day in a state of nervous "twitters," but she was often braced for the event by an elaborate corsage of violets—the customary Victorian offering—donated by a husband made sympathetic by watching her struggles through the summer. She was always ensconced in the seat of honor, a large antimacassared chair to the left of the southern window under a good light. Before her was a small table to hold her books and a glass of ice water.

It was a charming picture: the beautiful room, the gracious presence of Mrs. Wilcox in her wheelchair before the fire, the gentle ladies with their wide skirts spread about them,—no immodest knees showing in those days—stately Miss Love, with her magnificent white head indomitably erect, beside her Mrs. Rumsey with her tiny feet supported on a footstool, the whole bathed in the shifting glow of the late sun, vying with the flickering fire and the colored segments of light through the Tiffany glass lampshade. Occasionally the heads of the older women in their eighties dropped forward for an instant in a momentary nap but recovered their in-

terrupted dignity almost at once, a lapse politely ignored by the other ladies as they bent over their various occupations.

On the stroke of five the book was closed, the reader sighed with relief, and they all repaired to the adjoining room, where the round lace-covered table glistened with silver and flowers. One of the ladies, invited to pour, took her seat behind the massive tea service. Two white-capped maids hovered about, passing the delicate cups and little sandwiches, and urging the guests to partake of the enormous cake, frosted in chocolate or white, which always graced the table, though it was rarely eaten. The properly attired ladies circulated gently, enjoying the collation and discussing the reading, pleasantly stimulated with worth-while knowledge, and happily conscious of an afternoon well spent in an atmosphere replete with culture.

Appendix E

O. Rundle Gilbert, "Unrestricted Auction Sale, Estates of Ansley Wilcox, Truman G. Avery and others..." May 22-24, 1935. Courtesy Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

Unrestricted

UNRESTRICTED AUCTION SALE

Estates of
ANSLEY WILCOX
TRUMAN G. AVERY
AND OTHERS

To Be Dispersed
WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
May 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1935
10:30 A. M. EACH DAY

641 DELAWARE AVENUE
BUFFALO, N. Y.
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LIBRARY
O. RUNDLE GILBERT
Auctioneer

CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. All bids to be per piece unless otherwise mentioned.
2. The highest bidder to be the buyer. Any dispute in the final bid, the piece will immediately be resold, the auctioneer to use his judgment as to the good faith of all claims, and his decision shall be final.
3. Title to the merchandise passes at the fall of the auctioneer's hammer. Thereafter any loss by fire, theft, breakage or any other cause is on the purchaser. Neither the seller or the auctioneer have any further responsibility.
4. Any bid not commensurate with the value of the article offered or which is merely a fractional advance, may be rejected by the auctioneer if in his judgment such bid would be likely to affect the sale injuriously.
5. A deposit of 25% is required from each buyer, in default of which the lots in question shall be resold.
6. Every lot sold as is. Great care was exercised in the preparation of this catalogue, but neither the owner nor the auctioneer guarantees in any way the authenticity or condition of any lot.
7. Bids by mail will be accepted only when accompanied with a check for 25% of the gross bids. Such bids will be executed by and should be sent to Mr. Charles V. Damon, 641 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y.

Priced catalogues may be obtained at \$1.00 each.
Appraisals for Federal and State tax, insurance and other purposes also.
Catalogues of private collections may be arranged.
This catalogue arranged and prepared by

O. RUNDLE GILBERT
Auctioneer
Appraiser
44 E. 65th St., New York City

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22nd

Items 1 thru 299 will be sold starting at 10:30 A.M. They consist of white painted, oak and mahogany bed room furniture. A number of small boxes and table chests, lamps, candlesticks, blankets, brass, pictures, etc.

LINEN

- 300 Lace table doily 52" x 30"
- 301 4 assorted table covers.
- 302 3 assorted table covers.
- 303 3 assorted table covers.
- 304 Bag of napkins, sheets, pillow cases and odds and ends
- 305 Lace table cover
- 306 Three pads for table
- 307 4 small white pads
- 308 3 white bed pads
- 309 3 brown velvet table covers
- 310 Bundle of sheets
- 311 Linen table cloth 8' square—Damask
- 312 Linen table cloth 8' square—Damask
- 313 Linen table cloth 9' x 7'4"—Damask
- 314 Large oval lace banquet cloth, 10' x 9'
- 315 Hand woven wool Chaise Lounge throw.
- 316 Flowered table cover
- 317 Camel's hair wall hanging
- 318 Black Embroidered Spanish shawl on green silk
- 319 Silk embroidered shawl
- 320 Multi-colored silk shawl

MAPLE BEDROOM

- 321 4 curley maple side chairs, with brown horsehair seats
- 322 Curley maple drop leaf table, turned legs
- 323 Old Colonial 2-part mirror in gilt frame

2

- 324 Carved walnut fireside dog.
- 325 Curley maple chest of draws, consisting of 4 large drawers 2 small drawers at top, dark stained oak columns on sides
- 326 Old Empire Clock
- 327 Pair of green pottery candlesticks
- 328 Pair of tall Japanese beaker vases, 18"
- 329 Chinese vase, decorated in black and gold.
- 330 Very large birdseye maple chest of draws, consisting of three large draws in bottom compartment, 3 small draws in central compartment, 2 small draws in top compartment with mirror on top.
- 331 Old Meissen ware clock
- 332 Small mahogany table chest
- 333 Yellow Japanese vase, with top

MAHOGANY FURNITURE

- 334 4-post Mahogany bed, box springs and hair mattress.
- 335 Pair of feather pillows
- 336 Heavy mahogany dresser with mirror
- 337 Heavy mahogany dresser with mirror
- 338 Mahogany bed side table
- 339 Mahogany bed side table
- 340 Pair of heavy mahogany twin beds, box spring and hair mattress
- 341 Mahogany 4-shelf muffin stand
- 342 Mahogany shaving mirror
- 343 Mahogany vanity dresser, carved leg
- 344 Mahogany secretary desk, compartment bottom, with 3 small draws on one side, 3 shelves in top with glass doors
- 345 Small wood shelf
- 346 Wood shelf
- 347 Mahogany mirror in Ogee frame
- 348 2 drawer chest
- 349 Low mahogany stand, finished on all sides.

3

- 350 Small footstool
- 351 Upholstered rosewood side chair, flowered brocade
- 352 Rosewood arm chair, upholstered in flowered brocade
- 353 Mahogany commode
- 354 Queen Ann straight back chair, inlaid with Dutch Marquetry
- 355 Picture of girl, in black frame
- 356 Rosewood arm chair
- 357 Early American stained oak chair, rush seat
- 358 Old English walnut straight back chair, rush seat
- 359 English hall bench, oak seat and back.
- 360 Small stand, lacquered finish
- 361 Kittinger coffee table
- 362 Dark stained oak coffee table
- 363 Teakwood corner cabinet, compartment base with 2 shelves on top, carved throughout
- 364 Upholstered footstool, carved wood frame
- 365 Upholstered stool, carved wood frame
- 366 Octagonal oak library table, supported by three joined legs, claw feet.
- 367 Mahogany costumer
- 368 Mahogany telephone table and stand
- 369 Round oak stand
- 370 Mahogany table, with one large drawer, top inlaid with bands of satinwood and marquetry center.
- 371 Small mahogany curio cabinet, glass doors and 2 small drawers on each side, marquetry inlay
- 372 Walnut drum stand
- 373 Empire stand, 2 shelves and drawer in top, brass ormolu
- 374 Metal shield, with 3 candlebranches wired for electricity
- 375 Mahogany vanity dresser.
- 376 Carved white marble model of "Tash-Ma-Hal" mounted on a mosaic tile base
- 377 Mahogany console table, lyre legs, mirrored base
- 378 Mahogany Windsor back, rocker arm chair.
- 379 Teakwood table stand, carved
- 380 Mahogany chest of drawers, 3 regular drawers in bottom and one large protruding top drawer mounted on cylindrical columns
- 381 Empire clock, by Wadsworth and Turner, Litchfield, Conn. Painted roadside scene on bottom panel, case with claw feet.
- 382 Metal vanity box
- 383 Persian brass treasure chest
- 384 Polychrome table chest
- 385 Mahogany bedside table
- 386 Pair of blue silk sofa pillows
- 387 Old Colonial Chaise Lounge, with blue silk cushion
- 388 3-fold screen, covered with heavy brocade
- 389 Pair of Empire brass andirons
- 390 Brass fire fender, 42" long
- 391 Carved teakwood center table
- 392 Mahogany straight back chair, Queen Ann style, rush seat
- 393 Antique English oak, straight back, arm chair, circa 1650
- 394 Old Gothic panel, converted into a book case, profusely carved
- 395 Rosewood 3 panel sofa, upholstered in green brocade
- 396 Adjustable reading stand, with brass candle fixtures on either side
- 397 Mirror in heavy painted frame, 46" x 27"
- 398 Mahogany highboy, 4 small drawers in base, 3 large drawers and five small drawers in top section, height 76" x 42" x 24" circa 1780
- 399 Mahogany arm chair, upholstered seat
- 400 Mahogany chifferrobe, with 18 separate compartments for men's wearing apparel
- 401 Very large mahogany wardrobe, Gothic design, height 8', width 5'3", depth 21"

END OF SESSION

THURSDAY, MAY 23rd, 10:30 A. M.

Items 402 thru 799 will be sold starting at 10:30 A. M. They consist of porch furniture, kitchen furniture, stoves and utensils, flower vases, glassware and china, and some fine glass table ornaments and cutglass

GLASS and CHINA

- 700 12 Pyrex hot dishes
- 701 12 amber glass saucers
- 702 7 old glass sauce dishes
- 703 9 glass saucers
- 704 2 old glass vinegar cruets
- 705 5 glass goblets, Colonial
- 706 9 crystal glass goblets
- 707 9 glass bells
- 708 6 green glass goblets
- 709 Lot of odd glasses
- 710 12 glass grapefruit holders
- 711 6 champagne glasses
- 712 11 gold incrustated sherbet glasses
- 713 6 glass goblets on square bases
- 714 15 glass finger bowls
- 715 4 odd finger bowls
- 716 13 Tiffany glass finger bowls
- 717 12 rose cut glass wine glasses
- 718 11 Stem glasses for Rhine wine, gold applique
- 719 6 hand decorated, gold incrustated champagne glasses
- 720 9 champagne glasses, each one with a different colored design in gold, blue and rose
- 721 Odd lot of china
- 722 Pair of old soft paste urns
- 723 6 green Wedgewood soft paste plates and 1 platter
- 724 10 odd pieces of china

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- 725 Flowered individual breakfast set of 7 pieces, by Maddock & Sons.
- 726 Pair of Flowered china compotes, one repaired
- 727 11 green dessert plates, Haviland
- 728 14 flowered plates and tureen, Minton china
- 729 Individual breakfast set, Royal Staffordshire, 9 pieces
- 730 Individual flowered breakfast set of 10 pieces, Yorkshire Ware, Dresden
- 731 12 decorated oyster plates
- 732 11 flowered dinner plates, Limoges
- 733 8 Limoges plates
- 734 6 Meissen plates and 1 covered dish
- 735 Large Meissen Ware platter
- 736 Large Meissen Ware steak platter
- 737 12 Wedgewood plates, raised figures of flowers on border
- 738 12 Limoges soup plates, $\frac{1}{2}$ " gold band border
- 739 14 Japanese salad plates
- 740 12 blue bordered salad plates, Wedgewood
- 741 7 Wedgewood soft paste plates
- 742 17 blue memorial plates, Wedgewood
- 743 Lot of odd cups and 1 blue china dish
- 744 12 Minton salad plates, stork pattern
- 745 7 Copeland soft paste salad plates
- 746 65 pieces of gold-banded china, the greater portion with mono-gram
- 747 12 salad plates made by Konigliche Porzellan Manufactur
- 748 Soft paste condiment set of 5 pieces
- 749 Pair of Meissen Ware Candlesticks, circa 1730
- 750 6 purple champagne glasses
- 751 2 amber glass compotes
- 752 Pair of green glass compotes
- 753 Pair of green glass compotes

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- 754 Green glass centerpiece
- 755 Fruit dish, gold incrustated
- 756 Pottery fruit dish
- 757 11 green etched glass dishes
- 758 Green glass dish, 1/2" gold band
- 759 Large green glass flower bowl and dish
- 760 Amber glass flower dish
- 761 Amber glass dish, plate and compote
- 762 3 green glass candlesticks
- 763 Large glass compote
- 764 4 Venetian glass candlesticks
- 765 2 Venetian glass compotes
- 766 Wedgewood compote
- 767 Pair of old glass Decanters
- 768 Pair of rose glass decanters, hand decorated throughout
- 769 Pair of Bavarian glass decanters
- 770 Glass cheese and cracker dish, gold incrustated

SILVER

- 771 3 sterling silver salts and peppers
- 772 4 early American salt spoons
- 773 3 sterling silver spoons
- 774 1 large sterling silver serving spoon
- 775 1 early American serving spoon
- 776 1 sterling silver pie knife
- 777 Small sterling silver knife and spoon
- 778 Sterling silver punch ladle
- 779 Old Colonial silver nut spoon
- 780 Silver fruit dish
- 781 3 odd silver coffee spoons
- 782 Lot of 6 odd pieces of silver
- 783 Dutch silver nut spoon

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- 784 Large Filigreed berry spoon
- 785 Gold colored nut spoon, porcelain handle, with miniature in bowl of spoon.
- 786 Pair sterling silver nut dishes
- 787 Silver soup ladle
- 788 Pair of silver nut dishes, filigreed bowls.
- 788a Lot of odd pieces plated silver
- 789 Sterling silver dish
- 790 Sterling silver bon-bon dish
- 791 Old silver bottle, with brass knob
- 792 Sterling silver butter dish, consisting of three pieces
- 793 6 sterling silver glass holders
- 794 Sterling silver compote
- 795 Sheffield sugar boat
- 796 Sterling silver bon-bon dish, red glass insert
- 797 Sterling silver case for smelling salts
- 798 Pair of silver plated salts, with glass inserts
- 799 Small French clock, miniature in top
- 800 Hand chased sterling silver dinner bell.
- 801 Sterling silver coffee pot
- 802 Sterling silver bread basket
- 803 Sterling silver bread tray
- 804 Old English plateau
- 805 Plated silver tray, mounted on three feet
- 806 2 odd pieces plated ware
- 807 Dutch silver tray, embossed cupids with filigreed edge
- 808 Round silver tray, filigreed edge
- 809 Sheffield silver center piece
- 810 Silver tray
- 811 Hand hammered sterling silver fruit dish
- 812 Sheffield silver cake dish, rim decorated with raised figures of grapes and flowers
- 813 Sheffield silver fruit dish, raised figures on side

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- 814 Hand hammered sterling silver water pitcher
 815 Sterling silver center piece
 816 Sterling silver fruit dish
 817 Plated silver tray
 818 Sterling silver water pitcher, colonial design
 819 Old English covered pitcher, seated lion figure on top of lid, wood handle
 820 3 sterling silver frames
 821 2 sterling silver ash trays
 822 Sterling silver frame, gold plated with blue glass insert
 823 Small wrist watch
 824 Large silver tray, resting on four feet, open work sides
 826 Very large Sheffield tray for silver service. Bunches of raised grapes around the edge, handle on either end
 827 12 silver dinner knives
 828 Mantle candle set, 3 pieces

RUGS

- 829 Carpet on third floor hall
 830 Carpet on stairs, both front and back
 831 Carpet on second floor hall
 832 Blue runner, approx. 24' x 2'2"
 833 Blue runner, approx. 17½' x 2'2"
 834 Brown runner, approx. 15½' x 2'2"
 835 Brown runner, approx. 16½' x 2'2"
 836 Brown runner, approx. 16½' x 2'2"
 837 Brown runner, approx. 16' x 2'2"
 838 Brown runner, approx. 6' x 2'2"
 839 Taupe runner, approx. 15' x 2'3"
 840 Blue figured runner, approx. 12½' x 2'3"
 841 2 pieces taupe carpet, approx. 6' x 3'2" each
 842 Taupe carpet, approx. 7'6" x 3'1"
 843 Taupe carpet, approx. 14' x 3'1"
 844 Taupe hall runner, approx. 60' x 3'
 845 Gray flowered porch rug, 9' x 12'
 846 2 pieces blue carpet, approx. 7'6" x 4'5" each
 847 Brown carpet, approx. 6'5" x 5'4"
 848 Domestic rug, light colored, approx. 9' x 12'
 849 Green carpet rug, approx 16' square
 850 Green rug, approx. 4' x 8"
 851 Green throw rug, approx. 3' x 6'
 852 Navaho rug, approx. 4' x 8'
 853 Navaho rug, approx. 4' x 5'6"
 854 Mexican rug, 3'6" x 7'
 855 Rag rug, approx. 6' x 8'
 856 Domestic rug, flowered squares design, approx. 8' x 10'
 857 Domestic rug, solid green color, approx. 10' x 25'
 858 Small oriental mat
 859 Small Anatolian mat
 860 Small oriental mat
 861 Small oriental mat, repaired
 862 Small Kabistan prayer rug, 3'1" x 3'7"
 863 Small Chinese animal rug, blue figures on taupe background, 4' x 2'
 864 Chinese rug, mosaic center, light and dark blues on taupe background, 32' x 60"
 865 Small Chinese tree rug, colors, blue border with yellow center, 25" x 47"
 866 Mosaic table cover
 867 Small Anatolian mat
 868 Small Anatolian mat, damaged
 869 Small Anatolian mat
 870 Small oriental Kazak rug, 3'5" x 5'1"
 871 Beluchistan rug. Mosaic figures on dark blue background, 3' x 5'8"

- 897 Large Austrian hand-tufted carpet, 18'10" x 15'
- 898 Kurdistan runner, 14'10" x 3', worn and repaired
- 899 Hamadan runner, 10'4" x 5'6"
- 900 Hamadan runner, 16'6" x 3'6"

END OF SESSION

- 872 Kurdistan rug, 3' x 5'5"
- 873 Shirvan prayer rug, 2'6" x 5'3"
- 874 Hamadan rug, 3'10" x 6'3"
- 875 Hamadan rug, 4'3" x 6'3"
- 876 Chinese rug, flower design, 2'6" x 4'5"
- 877 Hamadan runner, 5' x 12'2"
- 878 Kurdistan runner, 10'8" x 4'2"
- 879 Kis-Kün runner, 12'2" x 5'1", damaged
- 880 Lamb's wool foot warmer
- 881 Hamadan runner, 3 central pole medallions on red field, natural camel's hair border, good condition, 12'7" x 3'6"
- 882 Leopard skin foot warmer
- 883 Samarkand rug, mosaic border design, light green center with flowered design, 7' x 4'7"
- 884 Fur rug, 4'10" x 2'2"
- 885 Fur rug, 4'10" x 2'2"
- 886 Beluchistan rug, repaired, 4' x 3'
- 887 Shiraz rug, 3 central medallions of ivory and red on blue field, 5'10" x 4'2"
- 888 Kurdistan runner, 14'4" x 3'3"
- 889 Yuruk Prayer rug, 4'9" x 3'4"
- 890 Mahal carpet rug, 12'6" x 11'
- 891 Kabistan runner, 8'6" x 3'6", 12 multi-colored medallions on dark blue field
- 892 Kabistan runner, 8' x 4'1", 3 central square medallions of ivory and red on blue field
- 893 Chinese rug, 19'6" x 10'6", figured taupe center, blue border with taupe edge
- 894 Fur rug, 5'6" x 2'8"
- 895 Brown bearskin rug
- 896 Kazak runner, 14'2" x 3'

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1935

Items 901 thru 1099, also 1300 and above, will be sold starting at 10:30 A. M. They consist of garden statuary pottery vases, bric-a-brac, picture frames, bronzes, 20 fans and a complete library of 1500 books.

- 1100 Small mantle clock
- 1101 Rush seat Windsor arm chair
- 1102 4 piece wrought iron fire set
- 1103 Heavy wrought iron andirons
- 1104 Fireside wood box, pannelled top and sides
- 1105 Pair of crystal candelabra wired for electricity, rose, amber and ivory drops
- 1106 Pair of tall spiral brass candlesticks, 19"
- 1107 Mahogany bar, height 56" x 23" x 17"
- 1108 Bronze table lamp and glass shade
- 1109 Carved pine chest, circa 1700
- 1110 Carved oak hall chair, cane seat and back, turned legs and stretchers
- 1111 Tall bronze statue of Venus
- 1112 Brass fireside wood box, embossed figures of eagle at top and sides, claw feet
- 1113 Mahogany drop leaf gate leg table
- 1114 3-tier oak muffin stand
- 1115 Carved walnut table chest
- 1116 Carved oak drop leaf table
- 1117 Pair of brass candle branches
- 1118 Florentine 2-fold screen, center of antique French brocade
- 1119 Mahogany liquor set, fitted with 5 blown glass bottles, gold decorated and 6 gold decorated glasses
- 1120 Carved walnut bench
- 1121 Empire mahogany serving table
- 1122 Large octagonal center table of Italian origin, circa 1650

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DINING ROOM FURNITURE

- 1123 Empire mahogany serving table
- 1124 Mahogany buffet with deep top drawer, cabinet base, pillow sides and claw feet, brass knobs.
- 1125 Empire round dining table
- 1126 Square dining room table, with 6 leaves
- 1126a Mahogany console table, mirrored back
- 1127 Carved mahogany buffet of 3 compartments; mirror at back of center compartment, claw feet on 4 highly carved columns
- 1128 Mirror in decorated brass frame, 34" square
- 1129 Mahogany arm chair, upholstered seat, back and arms
- 1130 4 pair brass tie backs, colonial

EMPIRE FURNITURE

- 1131 Mahogany hall bench
- 1132 Empire curio table, with removable glass top, plush lined compartment
- 1133 Upholstered settee
- 1134 Leather covered mahogany sofa, length 7'6"
- 1135 Round stained oak table
- 1136 Mahogany drum table on pedestal base, 2 drawers in top
- 1137 Mahogany hall bench, upholstered in blue velour
- 1138 Mahogany hall bench, upholstered in original horsehair
- 1139 Mahogany mirrored console, brass ornamentation
- 1140 Mahogany stand, compartment base, marble top and shelf, sliding mirror at back.
- 1141 Chinese Chippendale curio cabinet
- 1142 Mahogany horsehair sofa, scroll top and ends. Horsehair cushion at either end to fit under arms, carved paw feet
- 1143 Round Teakwood stand, black marble top inlaid flowers
- 1144 Painting, Autumn Leaves in Versailles, by Eugene Chigot
- 1145 Roadside Scene, signed Rudolf Meszolis

PAINTINGS

15

Old Paint. T. C. Penfold 1875

- 1146 Girl in the Rose Garden, F. C. Penfold
- 1147 Water color by E. Kilbourne Foote
- 1148 Water color, "A Breathless Lagoon," by F. Hopkinson Smith
- 1149 Rockbound Coast, unsigned in heavy gold frame, 10" x 8" D
- 1150 Child and the Mirror, by C. Petit, 14" x 10", painted on panel
- 1150a Painting, "Boy Carrying Girl", 80" x 46"
- 1151 The Arabian Guard, by H. Chlebowski, 1879, 20" x 15"
- 1152 "Cutting Birch," by F. C. Penfold
- 1153 Woodland Scene in the Forest of Fontainebleau, by J. Veyrasat, 23 1/2" x 18"
- 1154 7 small paintings in heavy gilt frame
- 1155 Painting on wood panel, "Difficult to Choose," by Joseph Coomans, 22" x 17"
- 1156 "Mongol Chieftain", 25" x 35"
- 1157 The Descent from the Cross, 29" x 29"
- 1158 Madonna and Child, 39" x 29"
- 1159 Dutch Farmyard Scene, by Carl Hubner, 1865, 40" x 35" canvas punctured
- 1160 Very large gilt frame for canvas, 49" x 60"
- 1161 Portrait of a young lady, by Louis Loeb, 35" x 29"
- 1162 Lady with fan, by Bettinger, 32" x 25 1/2"
- 1163 The Little Princess, by Gaston La Touche, 61" x 55"

LIBRARY FURNITURE

- 1164 Tall Empire brass lamp, with etched glass shade
- 1165 3 piece upholstered living room set, consisting of 2 chairs and a sofa, blue upholstered
- 1166 3 piece upholstered living room set, consisting of sofa and 2 chairs, upholstered in blue whipcord
- 1167 Upholstered straight back chair, flowered needlepoint seat and back
- 1168 Upholstered high back arm chair in tan brocade, satinwood inlay on arms and legs.

- 1169 Polychrome painted Lecturn
- 1170 Mahogany table shelf, satinwood inlay on sides and top
- 1171 Walnut center table, turned legs and stretcher
- 1172 Pair of carved high back arm chairs, upholstered seat
- 1173 Mahogany game table, Sheraton style, birdseye maple frame, circa 1790
- 1174 Octagonal stained oak compartment table
- 1175 Marble pedestal table
- 1176 Pair of brass andirons
- 1177 Pair of crystal candelabra with prism drops, space for 5 candles
- 1178 3 pairs of green velvet drapes, 2 pairs are 8'6" x 3'9", 1 pair are double-sided 7'6" x 3'9"
- 1179 5 pair of brown velvet drapes, 3 pair are 8'9" x 4', 2 pair are 7'6" x 4'
- 1180 5 pair of red brocade drapes, 4 pair are 8'6" x 3'7", 1 pair of door drapes are 7'6" x 3'3", with valances to match
- 1181 Mahogany game table, lyre base
- 1182 Painting "Temptation" by Louis Loeb
- 1183 Mahogany table, black marble top
- 1184 Pair of walnut upholstered hall benches, Marquetry inlay on each end
- 1185 Tall Grandfather's clock in pine and maple case, wooden works
- 1186 Antique brass water clock, complete with drip pan, inscribed on brass plate "Tyme if Short". Henry Stone, Southampton, 1652
- 1187 Brass student lamp, colored glass shades
- 1188 Capo di Monte Urn, 15 1/2" high

LOUIS XV LIVING ROOM FURNITURE

- 1189 Upholstered foot stool
- 1190 4 Louis XV side chairs, upholstered in satin brocade
- 1191 Pair of Louis XV seats

- 1216 Maple center table, with inlaid marble top, surrounded by marquetry band. Legs decorated with brass heads. In center of 2 sides a small round miniature is inserted
- 1217 Pair of tall gilt candleabra, Adams design, cupid holding branch, gilt metal base
- 1218 Large gilt mantel clock, Adams design. Figure seated on top
- 1219 Tall English shelf cabinet, polychrome decorated, 8' x 4'1" x 14", made from wood taken from Winchester Cathedral
- 1220 Large Adams mantle 3-section mirror, decorated with garlands of wheat at top and two carved wood figures for finial, 60" x 57"
- 1221 3-tiered crystal glass chandelier wired for electricity, 6 outlets

END OF SALE

- 1192 Pair of Louis XV footstools
- 1193 Pair of Louis XV arm chairs, upholstered in satin brocade
- 1194 3-fold Louis XV screen, upholstered panels of satin brocade
- 1195 Pair of Louis XV settees, upholstered in satin brocade
- 1196 Tall gilt floor lamp and shade
- 1197 Pair of ornamented candle branches, with space for 5 candles
- 1198 Polychrome wall bracket, picture center
- 1199 Gilt curio cabinet, mirror back 3 glass shelves
- 1200 Plaster wall bracket
- 1201 Louis XV center table, top covered with gold leaf
- 1202 Green marble pedestal
- 1203 Carved marble bird bath
- 1204 Pair of carved wood figure wall ornaments
- 1205 Louis XV arm chair, upholstered in red brocade
- 1206 Round walnut table, marble top
- 1207 Mahogany harpsichord made by Daniel Thomas, 87 Warren Street, New York City. Case inlaid with strips of satinwood, brass ormolu, legs of carved mahogany with brass claw feet. circa 1770
- 1208 Gilt wood table lamp and shade
- 1209 Pair of plaster figure lamps, 5 outlights
- 1210 Pair of blue satin upholstered side chairs
- 1211 Pair of upholstered side chairs, center portion of seat and back Aubusson tapestry, surrounded by blue satin. Frame of many inlaid woods.
- 1212 Pair of upholstered arm chairs, Aubusson tapestry on seat back and arms, surrounded by blue satin
- 1213 Pair of large upholstered arm chairs, Aubusson tapestry on seat, back and arms, surrounded by blue satin. Frame of maple, trimmed with ebony, satinwood and walnut. Brass figureheads at front of arm rests
- 1214 3 section sofa, each section description same as item no. 1213
- 1215 Maple center table with 2 shelves plush covered, frame trimmed with brass, walnut and ebony inlays. Brass ormolu. In center of frame on 2 sides a small round porcelain miniature

Appendix F

Ansley Wilcox, "Theodore Roosevelt, President," October 1902, with explanatory letter to Andrew Langdon, November 25, 1908, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Buffalo, New York.

WILCOX & BULL,
COUNSELLORS AT LAW,
BUFFALO, N. Y.
100 E. WASHINGTON BLDG.
B. C. TELEPHONE
W. J. OFFICE

NO 684 ELLICOTT SQUARE,
BUFFALO, N. Y.

Andrew Langdon, Gen.,
President, Buffalo Historical Society,
175 North Street, City.
Nov. 25th, 1905.

My dear Sir:-

As promised, I am sending you herewith the typewritten draft of a paper entitled "Theodore Roosevelt, President", which I prepared in November, 1902, for publication for the benefit of the Buffalo School Teachers Retirement Fund. This was published in a special Thanksgiving Supplement of the Daily Bazaar, a newspaper issued in connection with the fair held by the school teachers in the City Convention Hall.

I sent this draft of the paper to the President with a letter of November 20th, a copy of which is attached to it, and received his answer, also attached, under date of November 22nd, approving of it and saying that he had no suggestion to make beyond a few verbal corrections. These corrections appear on page 4 of the paper in his handwriting. They refer to the details of the message which was sent after his return into the Adirondacks calling him back to Buffalo because of the dangerous condition of President McKinley, and to his method of getting out of the woods.

The paper, therefore, forms an accurate and authoritative record of facts which are of some importance and are frequently referred to, and about which the newspapers in their columns often make erroneous statements. It seems to have a proper place in the files of your society.

I also enclose several copies of the supplement of the Daily Bazaar in which the paper was printed. This contains pictures of Mr. Wilburn's house and my house. Unfortunately, these pictures were taken later in the year when the leaves were all off from the trees, and do not represent either of these places as they looked in September, 1901.

I also send you, at your request, the frock coat which President Roosevelt borrowed on his arrival here, having only his hand luggage with him, and which he wore when he was sworn in on Saturday, September 14th, and at the funeral ceremonies of the next day. It has only been worn once since then. I cannot say that this is worth preservation, but leave this to your judgment.

Very truly yours,

Wm. C. Wilcox
Pres.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, PRESIDENT

Written by Ansley Wilcox in October, 1902, and

Revised by President T. Roosevelt

The people of Buffalo will always have a special interest in the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, because it was in this city that the awful tragedy occurred which made him President, and it was here that he was sworn in, made his first proclamation, and from here he followed the body of his former chief to its last resting place.

But Col. Roosevelt was well known to Buffalonians, and he knew the city and its people well, before that memorable week in September, 1901, when he unwillingly became the central figure of the world's gaze. His last previous visit was on May 20 of the same year, when he came here as Vice-President to open formally the Pan-American Exposition, around which all our hopes were clustering. At that time, he met many of our people and made as many friends by his simple, hearty and well souled manner. It was then that he, as well as Senator Lodge, in their speeches, developing the Pan-American idea which was the underlying motive of the exposition, gave utterance to thoughts which have been since proved pathetic, as outlining some phases of the foreign policy of the new administration, and especially the new and more energetic hegemony of the United States on this continent - the revived Monroe Doctrine.

Only a little more than a year before this, on Washington's birthday, in 1900, Col. Roosevelt, then Governor, had come to Buffalo and delivered an address on the higher duties of citizenship at the Saturn Club, and with his usual energy, he gave another address the same evening before the Daughters of the American Revolution, and still another before the Sixty-fifth Regiment, after a review.

So when on Friday, the sixth of September, he heard of the shooting of President McKinley at the Pan-American Exposition, and instantly started for the side of his chief, he knew he was not going among strangers but to the house of friends. He hardly stopped to consult anyone of his movements, but simply came to where the trouble was fast as a special train could bring him.

It was almost by chance that I met him on Saturday noon, as he drove up to the Iroquois Hotel, and a brief conversation resulted in his coming to stay at my house and stopping there until the following Tuesday. The house was then partly dismantled; the family and most of the household were in the country, but he was offered a quiet place to sleep and eat, and accepted it.

Those were terribly anxious days, but on the whole not gloomy. From the first moment of his arrival, and the favorable answers which were made to his questions about the condition of the President - especially after his first hasty call on the family and physicians of the wounded man, at Mr. Milburn's house, the Vice-president seemed possessed with an abiding faith that the wound would not be fatal. His sanguine temperament, his own rugged strength and consciousness of ability to combat disease, and his eager desire, yes, longing for the recovery of another, with all his might, that did Theodore Roosevelt, when he stood in the shadow of President McKinley's threatened death. Apart from all other consideration, he did not want to have the presidency thrust upon him in that terrible way. He would not believe it possible.

So when, on Tuesday, the fourth day after the shooting, everything seemed to be going well, and even the Secretary of War, Mr. Root, and other members of the cabinet, and Dr. Burney, who had come here from New York, felt justified in leaving, it was thought best that the Vice-president also should go away in order to impress the public with that confidence in the outcome which everyone felt. He went to join his family at a remote spot in the Adirondacks, the Tahawus Club, where he expected to stop only a day, and then take them back to his home at Oyster Bay. His itinerary and addresses for reaching him, if he should be needed here, were left with me but no one thought that he would be needed.

In the middle of the night between Thursday and Friday, I was aroused by a messenger asking me to send instantly for the Vice-president, as the President had suddenly become worse and was in great danger. Then began a vigorous effort to annihilate time and space. A telephone message to Albany put me, within two hours, in

direct communication with Mr. Loeb, the Vice-president's secretary. He informed me that the club where Col. Roosevelt probably was at that moment, was some hours beyond the end of rail and telegraph lines, but that he was probably coming out on that day; that he (Mr. Loeb) would try to reach him quickly by a telegram, to be forwarded by special messenger, and would also go after him on a special train as early in the morning as one could start.

It turned out that Col. Roosevelt and his family were staying a day longer in the Adirondacks than he had expected, owing in part, as I understand, to a storm which had washed out the roads and made them very bad. Being thus detained, on this Friday, the Vice-president had started for a tramp up Mt. Marcy with a guide, before the telegram from Mr. Loeb arrived. The message was sent after him and found him on his way down the mountain, just below the summit.

He hurried back; as soon as possible got a wagon and drove out over the rough roads to the nearest railway station, in the dark of Friday night. It is safe to say that he lost no time on that drive.

Saturday, September 14, about 1:30 PM, he arrived in Buffalo again and left the train at the Terrace Station. President McKinley had died early Saturday morning, and he was then the constitutional President of the United States. Naturally, there was great excitement in the city, and all precautions were taken for his safety. He was met at the station by a single private carriage (Mr. George L. Williams) and by Mr. Williams and myself, and was driven rapidly up to my house again, followed by a small escort of cavalry, which had been stationed off at some distance in order not to attract a crowd.

No definite plans had been made for swearing him in, and it had not even been settled where this should be done. The first suggestion had been to take him directly to Mr. Milburn's house, there to be sworn in, but this had been objected to as unsuitable, while the body of the President was lying in the house. So he was asked to go to my house to get lunch, and immediately at arriving and being equipped with borrowed clothes, more appropriate than his traveling suit, he insisted on starting for Mr. Milburn's house, to make a call of sympathy and respect on the family of the dead President. This was done, and by three o'clock he was at my house again.

Then without any preparation, and almost without announcement, the members of the cabinet came down to administer the oath of office.

They were the Secretary of War, Mr. Root; the Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Long; the Attorney General, Mr. Knox; the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Hitchcock; the Postmaster General, Mr. Smith; and the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Wilson. With them were Judge Hazel, of the United States District Court, and Judge Baught, of the New York Court of Appeals, Senator Depew, and a few friends who happened to know of it.

President Roosevelt met with them informally in the Library as they came in. The room, not a large one, was far from full, and at the last moment, the newspaper men, who were eager for admission, were all let in, but were prohibited from taking any photographs. Therefore the newspaper accounts of what were said done in the brief ceremony which followed are generally correct, but all professed pictures of the scene are shams, except as they may have been sketched from memory.

The Secretary of War, Mr. Root, was head of the cabinet, among the six who were present - the Secretaries of State and of the Treasury not being there. He was also an old and intimate friend of Col. Roosevelt, and his chief advisor at this trying time. Without any preliminaries, he addressed the new President, calling him "Mr. Vice-president", and on behalf of the cabinet requested him to take the oath of office.

President Roosevelt answered simply, but with great solemnity: "Mr. Secretary - I will take the oath. And in this hour of deep and terrible national bereavement, I wish to state that it shall be my aim to continue, absolutely without variance, the policy of President McKinley, for the peace and honor of our beloved country."

It is characteristic of the man that when, the next day, some newspapers published this statement without the word "honor" - referring only to "peace and prosperity" - he was concerned about it, and asked earnestly whether he possibly could have omitted a word to which he intended to give special emphasis.

The new President was standing in front of the bay window on the south side of the room. Others had fallen back a little when Mr. Root spoke. After his response, Judge Hazel advanced and administered the oath to support the constitution and laws. It was taken with uplifted

hand. The written oath, which Judge Hazel produced, in typewritten form, on a sheet of ordinary legal cap, was then signed.

Then President Roosevelt made the announcement of his request to the cabinet to remain in office. The whole ceremony was over within half an hour after the cabinet had entered the house, and the small company dispersed, leaving only the six cabinet officers with the President, who at once held an informal session in the library.

I was asked to produce the "Messages and Papers of the President" - the volume containing the proclamation by President Arthur of the death of President Garfield, and did so. This was considered in the cabinet meeting, which only lasted a few minutes.

After this meeting the President took a walk with Mr. Root, and then returning to the house, drafted his proclamation of the death of President McKinley, and appointing Thursday, September 19th, a day of national mourning. This was issued to the press that evening.

So began President Roosevelt's term of office. The next day, Sunday, came the local funeral ceremonies over his predecessor, and early Monday morning he started with the funeral train for Washington.

It takes less in the way of ceremony to make a President in this country, than it does to make a King in England or any monarchy, but the significance of the event is no less great.

Appendix G

George Keating's account of Theodore Roosevelt's swearing in, from a letter to Louis L. Babcock, Buffalo, December 18, 1933, Babcock Collection, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

WILCOX COLLEGE

W. Babcock, Esq.,

-2-

12/18/33,

LOVE & KEATING
COUNSELORS AT LAW
44 ELICOTT SQUARE
BUFFALO, N. Y.

GEORGE KEATING
SEWARD MILLER

December 18, 1933.

Louis L. Babcock, Esq.,
M & T Building,
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Louis:-

I will try to give to you my recollection of what happened at the time that the oath was administered to President Theodore Roosevelt at Buffalo.

On September 14, 1901, I was Clerk of the United States District Court. That morning I was sitting in Judge Hazel's office discussing with him the events of the day, and incidentally the question as to who would be called upon to administer the oath of the Vice President when he arrived in Buffalo to assume the office of President of the United States. While we were sitting there, a telephone came to the Judge from Secretary Root, as I recall it, asking him to come to the Milburn House, and in his capacity as United States District Judge swear in the Vice President as President of the United States. I immediately locked up the Constitution and had the Deputy Clerk write out the Oath of Office in his old-fashioned script. In the meantime Judge Hazel had sent a messenger out to purchase a Bible, which he was expecting to use in performing the function which had been assigned to him. I was young, and perhaps officious. I suggested to the Judge that he had better not take this Bible to the house as undoubtedly the host of the Vice President would produce his own Bible for this purpose, and therefore, the Judge might be somewhat embarrassed if he brought his own along. He seemed to concur in this suggestion and the Bible was not taken. I saw it for many years after reposing on his desk.

The Judge was kind enough to take his Clerk along upon this most interesting excursion, and we drove up to the Milburn house in one of Charles W. Miller's hacks. After a short stay there, the Judge was advised that the Oath was to be taken, not at the Milburn house, but at the Wilcox house, so that when the procession was formed all the notable gentlemen present, including the undersigned, were transported down to the Wilcox house. I brought up the rear in a carriage in which were seated Mr. Milburn and Secretary to the President, Cartalyou. On the way down, I recall distinctly, that Mr. Milburn expressed himself to the Secretary as being somewhat disappointed at the fact that the Oath was not taken in his house. Evidently he thought that Mr. Wilcox had been a little busy in securing the party for his residence.

When the party had gathered together in Mr. Wilcox's library and Secretary Root had requested the Vice President to take the Oath, Secretary Knox asked: "Where is the Bible?" Immediately there was a search for the Scriptures, which evidently had not been searched very diligently in the Wilcox Mansion, so Bible could be found. The Attorney General then said: "You must swear him with uplifted hand". So the Judge directed the Vice President to raise his hand, read to him the Oath, which was repeated by Roosevelt. When this was finished, Mr. Roosevelt signed the written Oath, which had been read to him by Judge Hazel. The Judge also signed it. The Judge then gave it to me to take down to the office and forward to Washington, which I did, after having attached the seal of the Court, and my own name as Clerk of the Court. I then mailed it to the Secretary of State, Jehu Hay, at Washington, who acknowledged it to me. I still have the letter from Secretary Hay.

My recollection of all these facts is very clear, and I know that Judge Hazel agrees with me in my recollection.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE P. KEATING

GPK:EE

Appendix H

Contemporary account of Theodore Roosevelt's accession
to the presidency, from *The Illustrated Buffalo Express*,
September 15, 1901.

receive near at hand and with Col. George Curtis Fredwell, his former military secretary at Albany, also blind. He reached the Wilcox home before 8 o'clock and greeted them Robert B. Roosevelt and others of his family, with a few personal friends who had called during his absence. He welcomed cordially Director-General William L. Buchanan of the Pan-American Exposition and arranged for a second visit from Mr. Buchanan during the evening, at which they discussed matters of interest to them both.

The Wilcox home was guarded during the evening and throughout the night by secret-service men and police. President Roosevelt personally does not take kindly to the idea of being guarded. His preference is that he shall be permitted to go about unprotected. But those who have the welfare of the President and the Nation at heart are determined that hereafter there shall be nothing lacking wherever he shall be moving. It is a measure of the deplorable events of a few days ago. So the President of the United States will be guarded not only during his stay here, but will be properly protected wherever he may go, and the American people will understand that this is done for their safety as well as his own.

—The office of a "chief" of the United States—repeated the President with even greater solemnity.

—and will, to the best of my ability," said the judge.

—and will to the best of my ability," repeated the President.

—preserves, protects and defend," said the judge.

—the Constitution of the United States," said the judge.

—the Constitution of the United States," said the President, "and those I like as best."

The right hand, which he had held on high as he took the oath of office, dropped to his side. His head bowed and his chin rested on his breast. All present instinctively inclined their heads as if in the presence of a monarch and a power beyond the might of man and the institutions of government. For almost two minutes, it seemed much longer, the new President sat thus, his eyes closed, his hands clasped and his feet crossed, as if in prayer.

Judge Hand made his remark, saying: "Mr. President, please detach your signature."

The President bowed up, turned to a small table near the head of the room, took up the pen, and in a few moments the words, "Woodrow Roosevelt," still in the air, were watching the scene in the bay window.

"I should like to see the members of the Cabinet," said the President, "and this was the signal for those who had been honored as witnesses of the ceremony to retire.

The President turned to them as they were leaving and said, with something of his old smile, "I will make hands with you people gladly." He first shook hands with the members of the Cabinet present, clasping hands first of all with Secretary Root. Then he shook hands with Senator Depew, and finally with a few of the guests gathered in other rooms while the Cabinet conferred with the President. It was a long conference, lasting nearly two hours. Those outside who had been waiting for a glimpse of the President or for some signal that the solemn and momentous ceremony was over were left to stand patiently. The members of the Cabinet left in a body. The President walked toward the entrance with them and then persuaded Secretary Root to tarry with him. When asked about the conference with the Cabinet the President said:

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—The Wilcox home is a picturesque old mansion of the Colonial style. It was built years ago and stands on high ground back from the street, on property once belonging to the United States Government and used at one time for an army headquarters. The room in which the oath of office was taken is called high in dark oak. The door is heavily polished and the only relief is a bay window prettily set in palms and adorned with stained glass. It was in this embrasure that the President stood when the oath was administered.

Outside the house the signal corps, in full-dress uniform surrounded with polished plumes, was drawn up at attention along the front sidewalk. The new President's first salute to the band was met by a salute from the band. Patrols were stationed at intervals along the sidewalk and were on guard about the lawn. United States Secret Service detectives were on guard in the veranda and at all the entrances and exits. The news had spread rapidly that the President was about to take the oath and all thoroughfares in the vicinity of the Wilcox home were filled with people hurrying thither.

Only a favored few were permitted to enter the house. The first to enter were United States Senator Chauncey M. Depew, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Milburn, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Sprague, Judge Haight of the Court of Appeals, George S. Metcalf, Dr. Park, Messrs. and Blockton, the surgeons who attended the dead President in the closing scenes of his life, John N. Beachard, Dr. and Mrs. Charles R. C. Scatford, William Jaffers, Chief newspaper of the United States, and Judge John R. Hill of the United States District Court, who administered the oath. The members of the Cabinet present were Secretary of War Root, Secretary of Navy Long, Secretary of Interior Hitchcock, Postmaster-General Smith, and Secretary of Interior Wilson. The only others in the house at the time of the administering of the oath were Mr. and Mrs. Ansley Wilcox, Miss Wilcox, three newspaper representatives, the secret-service detectives, and the household attendants. Secretary to the new President Loeb and Secretary to the late President Cortelyou also were present.

The party gathered in the library. The President stood in the bay window. He seemed almost nervous. His right hand plucked at the lapel of his coat and he tapped sharply on the hardwood floor with his heel. The members of the Cabinet stood as either side near the President. He stepped over once to Secretary Root and for five minutes they talked earnestly in low tones while those in the room waited. The question they were discussing was whether the President should first sign as oath of office and then be sworn in or whether his should wear in first and sign the oath later. The Secretaries Root stopped forward. President Roosevelt stopped backward and they stood facing each other in the bay window. Absolute silence pervaded the room. A stray bird had perched on the window ledge and it was chirping and fluttering. The President half turned and glanced toward the stained-glass window and then faced Secretary Root. Those around them pressed forward, crowding about in a small semicircle.

"Mr. Vice President—I," began Secretary Root.

"I should like to see the members of the Cabinet," said the President, "and this was the signal for those who had been honored as witnesses of the ceremony to retire.

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fully, across the neck of Wilcox, of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

"And thus do I swear," said the President.

Before raising his hand he said: "I shall take the oath at once in accordance with the request of the Cabinet to me, and in the hour of deep and terrible national bereavement, I wish to state that it shall be my duty to do so absolutely unreservedly and on the policy of President McKinley for the peace and prosperity and honor of our beloved country."

After taking the oath President Roosevelt conferred with the members of the cabinet. Following his meeting with them he said: "Following the brief statement I made when taking the oath, that I would follow the administrative line laid down by President McKinley, I requested the members of the Cabinet who are present to remain in their positions or, least for the present, they have assured me that they will and I may say that I have assurances also from the absent members of the Cabinet."

President Roosevelt was asked whether an extra session of Congress would be called by him and he said in substance that there was no fundamental objection to the calling together of Congress upon the occasion of the Vice President to the Presidency and after consultation with the Cabinet they had decided that no such extra session would be called. The President then went for a short walk with Secretary of War Root and upon his return to the Wilcox house greeted a few personal friends and spent the remainder of the day there. He will attend the funeral services at the Milburn home at 11 o'clock this morning, will remain here today and expects to leave for Washington with the funeral train when it departs tomorrow morning.

The ceremony of administering the oath of office was most impressive. A great crowd gathered in front of the Wilcox home, long before the arrival of President Roosevelt in the city. When he appeared, driving in a carriage with Ansley Wilcox and his secretary, William Loeb, there was a hush, then a hearty cheer and then respectful silence as the President hurried into Mr. Wilcox's home to prepare for his visit to the Milburn house. He and one of the attendants, under Col. W. H. Chapman, of Gen. Sherman's staff, riding along with mounted police on either side, Detachments Devine and Hunsfelt from Police Headquarters in a carriage behind him and secret-service men interspersed throughout the escort.

When the President saw this escort in front of the Wilcox home he asked that it should escort accompany him on his visit to the Milburn house. It was the identical escort which had accompanied the dead President in his public appearances in this city. He emerged from the Wilcox home at 1:30 o'clock, entered the carriage of George L. Williams with Ansley Wilcox, and drove out Delaware Avenue through the city to the Milburn house. He stopped in front of the Milburn house. He stepped out of the carriage and stood erect facing the house. He wore a black frock suit and a high hat. Before taking a step toward the house he removed his hat and then walked swiftly up the approach and into the front door.

His first question was a solicitous inquiry into the welfare of the late President.

He then turned to the members of the Cabinet and they stood facing each other in the bay window. Absolute silence pervaded the room. A stray bird had perched on the window ledge and it was chirping and fluttering. The President half turned and glanced toward the stained-glass window and then faced Secretary Root. Those around them pressed forward, crowding about in a small semicircle.

"Mr. Vice President—I," began Secretary Root.

Appendix I

**“No Picture Was Taken,” from *Buffalo Courier*, December
25, 1901.**

NO PICTURE WAS TAKEN

AN INCIDENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO ROOSEVELT AT WILCOX HOUSE.

A New York man who was present when Mr. Roosevelt took the Presidential oath at the home of Ansley Wilcox in Buffalo, relates this:

"There is no photograph in existence of any Vice-President taking the oath as President. When Johnson succeeded Lincoln the art of photography was not so swift as it is now. When Arthur took the oath as Garfield's successor it was in a private house. No artist was present. "These facts were stated to Mr. Roosevelt when he reached Buffalo to become President. He was asked if, under the circumstances, he would permit a photograph to be made while he was taking the oath in Mr. Wilcox's house. "At first he was inclined to protest. "At the earnest solicitation of several

persons who were to be present, he implicitly consented, but it was with the distinct understanding that the photographer was to keep himself in the background. Nothing was to be done which would mar the dignity of the occasion.

"A young man who had accompanied President McKinley on the California trip, and had been with him in Buffalo up to the time of the tragedy, was selected to photograph the scene in the Wilcox residence. He was there with his camera in advance of the Roosevelt party and was concealed as well as he could be.

"When he got there he found another one of his profession in the room, who had a camera big enough to take a skyscraper. Just how he got in I shall not say, but he was not there officially. However, he insisted on remaining.

"Just as Mr. Roosevelt was about to take the oath the big camera collapsed and caused a racket. This naturally gratified upon the occasion, and Mr. Roosevelt, seeing the other camera, permission for whose presence there had been given, he asked that it be removed.

"And that is why there is no picture of that event, except as it was made from imagination of description. It was a matter of regret to those who arranged for what would have been a historical picture, but they could not insist, and the opportunity was lost.

"I have never seen any explanation of it given, although no secrecy was enjoined, so far as I know."

Appendix J

Short-title list of books from the Wilcox library, now in the possession of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation.

Pre-1901 Works

- Addison, Joseph, *Essays from the Spectator* (London: Wm. Tegg, n.d.); inscribed "Ansley Wilcox, May 1893"
- Brewster, Anne H.M., *St. Martin's Summer* (Boston, 1866); inscribed "To Cornelia [Rumsey] on her fourteenth birthday April 18th, 1866, from her Father"
- Burlingame, Edward L., *Art Life and Theories of Richard Wagner* (New York: 1875); inscribed "Cornelia C. Rumsey 1877"
- Dante Alighieri, *La Commedia di Dante Alighieri* (Firenze, 1896); inscribed "G.R. Wilcox from Ine [?] October 20th 1900"
- Eadie, John, ed., *A New and Complete Concordance to the Holy Scriptures....* (New York: American Tract Society, n.d.); inscribed "Ansley Wilcox 1879"
- Emerson, Ralph Waldo, *The Conduct of Life* (Boston and New York, 1887); inscribed "Grace Rumsey Wilcox, Dec. 16, 1887 A.W."
- _____, *Essays: First Series* (Boston, 1900); inscribed "M.M. Wilcox [Ansley's sister, Mabel]"
- _____, *Essays: Second Series* (Boston, 1899); inscribed "M.M. Wilcox 1900"
- _____, *Lectures and Biographical Sketches* (Boston and New York, 1887); inscribed "Grace Rumsey Wilcox Dec. 16, 1887 A.W."
- _____, *Poems* (Boston and New York, 1891); inscribed "M.M. Wilcox"
- _____, *Representative Men* (Boston and New York, 1887); inscribed "Grace Rumsey Wilcox Dec. 16, 1887 A.W."
- _____, *Representative Men* (Boston and New York, c.1883); inscribed "M.M. Wilcox"
- Farrar, F.W., *Seekers after God* (London, 1886); inscribed "Grace Rumsey Wilcox from Sallie Christmas Tree 1886"
- Figuer, Louis, *The Insect World....* (New York, 1872; inscribed "Grace Rumsey St. Augustine Feb. 1878"
- Fitzgerald, Edward, trans., *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam and the Salaman and Adsal of Jami* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, n.d.); inscribed "Mabel McGhee Wilcox December '96 from K.A.W."
- Gibbs, Alfred S., ed., *Goethe's Mother....* (New York, c.1880); inscribed "M. Grace Rumsey New York April 27th 1883"
- Green, John Richard, *A Short History of the English People* (London and New York, 1888); inscribed "Ansley Wilcox 1892"
- Holy Bible.* (New York: American Tract Society, 1866); inscribed "Ansley Wilcox, New Haven, Conn., March 1st '69"
- Hood, Thomas, *Up the Rhine* (Philadelphia: Porter & Coates, n.d.); inscribed "Ansley Wilcox 1872"
- _____, *The Poetical Works of ... Vol. I* (Philadelphia: Porter & Coates, n.d.); inscribed "Ansley Wilcox 1872"
- _____, *The Prose Works of... Vols. I-II* (Philadelphia: Porter & Coates, n.d.); inscribed "Ansley Wilcox 1872"

- Inging, Washington, *Wolfer's Roost and other papers....* (New York, 1855); inscribed "Dani. H. Wilcox 1855"
- Loftie, W.J., *A Plea for Art in the House, with special reference to the economy of collecting works of art, and the importance of taste in education and morals* (Philadelphia: Porter & Coates, n.d.); inscribed "Grace Rumsey September 2nd 1877"
- Lowell, James Russell, *The Bigelow Papers: Second Series* (Boston, 1867); inscribed "D H Wilcox 1867"
- Maeterlinck, Maurice, *Wisdom and Destiny* (New York, 1900); inscribed "G R Wilcox 1901 Buffalo"
- Martens, Marten, *The Greater Glory* (New York, 1894); inscribed "G.R. Wilcox March 15th 1894 Buffalo"
- Morfill, W.R., *The Story of Russia* (New York and London, 1890); inscribed "Grace Rumsey Wilcox May & June 1891 Half hour Re read 1911 Althorpe"
- Motley, John Lothrop, *History of the United Netherlands....* (New York, 1880), vol. 1 of four; inscribed "Grace Rumsey Buffalo Sept 21 1881"
- Olyphant, Mrs., *Royal Edinburgh: Her Saints, Kings, Prophets and Poets* (London and New York, 1891); inscribed "G R Wilcox Christmas 1894 from Eva"
- Parkman, Francis, *The Conspiracy of Pontiac and the Indian War after the Conquest of Canada* (Boston, 1882), 2 vols.; inscribed "Ansley Wilcox from M.G.R. Oct. 1883 Read aloud Aug & Sept 1885 [and, vol. II] Sept Oct /85"
- _____, *A Half Century of Conflict* (Boston, 1893), 2 vols.; inscribed "Ansley Wilcox from G.R. Wilcox 1893"
- _____, *La Salle and their Discovery of the Great West* (Boston, 1882); inscribed "G.R. Wilcox"
- _____, *Pioneers of France in the New World* (Boston, 1882); inscribed "Ansley Wilcox 1883 from M G R Began reading aloud Nov 23-85 Ended Dec 19, 1886"
- Saintsbury, George, *A Short History of French Literature* (Oxford, 1892); inscribed "Grace Rumsey Wilcox Christmas 1894 from Mary"
- Shelley, Percy Bysshe, *The Poetical Works* (London: R. & A. Suttaby, n.d.); inscribed "M. Grace Rumsey Ryde, Isle of Wight June 1879"
- Wheeler, Benjamin Ide, *Alexander the Great....* (New York and London, 1900); inscribed "Ansley Wilcox Dec. 1901"
- Wood, Charles, *Saunterings in Europe* (New York, c.1882); inscribed "M. Grace Rumsey 1882"
- Post-1901 Titles
- Bacon, G.W., & Co., *Bacon's Elementary Relief Atlas*
- Barnes, Earl, *Woman in Modern Society* (New York, 1912); inscribed "G R Wilcox 1913"
- Brion, Marcel, *Attila, the Scourge of God* (New York, 1929); inscribed "G R Wilcox August 1st 1929"
- Cook, R.J., pub., *One Hundred and One Famous Poems* (Chicago, 1924); inscribed "G R Wilcox Dec 16th 1926 from Mrs. Fleming"
- Dana, Richard Henry, *Hospitable England in the Seventies* (Cambridge, 1921); inscribed "Ansley Wilcox March 1921"
- George, W.L., *Literary Chapters* (Boston, 1918); inscribed "G.R. Wilcox April 12, 1918...."
- Gissing, George, *By the Ionian Sea* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, n.d.); inscribed "G R Wilcox 1917"
- Guilboa, Marguerite, *Life of Adrienne d'Ayen, Marquise de La Fayette* (Chicago, c.1918); inscribed "G R Wilcox"
- Hall, Josef Washington [Upton Close], *Eminent Asians: Six Great Personalities of the New East* (New York and London, 1929); inscribed "G R Wilcox September 29th 1929 Althorpe"
- Hind, C. Lewis, *Days in Cornwall* (New York and London, 1907); inscribed "G R Wilcox Christmas 1907 from Ruth"

- Howe, P.P., *Dramatic Portraits* (New York, 1913); inscribed "G R Wilcox, January 1916"
- Hutchinson, A.S.M., *Once aboard the Luger: the History of George and his Mary* (New York, c.1908); inscribed "G R Wilcox Althorpe 1911"
- "Iconoclast," *England's Labour Rulers* (New York, c.1924); inscribed "G R Wilcox, Althorpe, Sept. 1924"
- Langford, Joseph H., *Japan of the Japanese* (New York, 1914); inscribed "Grace Rumsey Wilcox August 1916 Althorpe"
- Lippman, Walter, *A Preface to Morals* (New York and London, 1914); inscribed "Frances Wilcox Cooke from Nina November 16th 1914"
- McCabe, Joseph, *The Tyranny of Shams* (New York, 1917); inscribed "Grace Rumsey Wilcox July 28th Althorpe"
- Moore, Paul Elmer, *Shelburne Essays* (New York and London: 1910); inscribed "G R Wilcox"
- Muir, John, *The Mountains of California* (New York, 1911); inscribed "Grace Rumsey Wilcox Pasadena March 1912"
- Ravenal, Mrs. St. Julien, *Charleston, the Place and the People* (New York, 1906); inscribed "Grace Rumsey Wilcox"
- Rea, Lilian, *The Enthusiasts of Port-Royal* (New York, 1912); inscribed "G R Wilcox December 1912"
- Schevill, Ferdinand, *The History of the Balkan Peninsula* (New York, c.1922); inscribed "Grace Rumsey Wilcox June 1928, Althorpe"
- Sedgwick, Henry Dwight, *Marcus Aurelius, a Biography....* (New Haven and London, 1921); inscribed "G R Wilcox January 1922"
- Stearns, Harold, *America and the Young Intellectual* (New York, c.1921); inscribed "G.R. Wilcox Feb. 1922"
- Williams, H. Noel, *Madame du Barry* (New York, 1909); inscribed "Wilcox"
- Wilson, Woodrow, *In Our First Year of War: Messages and Addresses....* (New York and London, 1918); inscribed "G R Wilcox Brown's Mills March 1918"
- Woodberry, George E., *Nathaniel Hawthorne* (Boston and New York, c.1902); inscribed "G R Wilcox from L. E. December 16th 1926"
- 'Hawthorne' prepared for Class—paper read April 4th 1927 by Evelyn R. L[ord]....



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes fostering wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The department also promotes the goals of the Take Pride in America campaign by encouraging stewardship and citizen responsibility for the public lands and promoting citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

NPS D-5.



