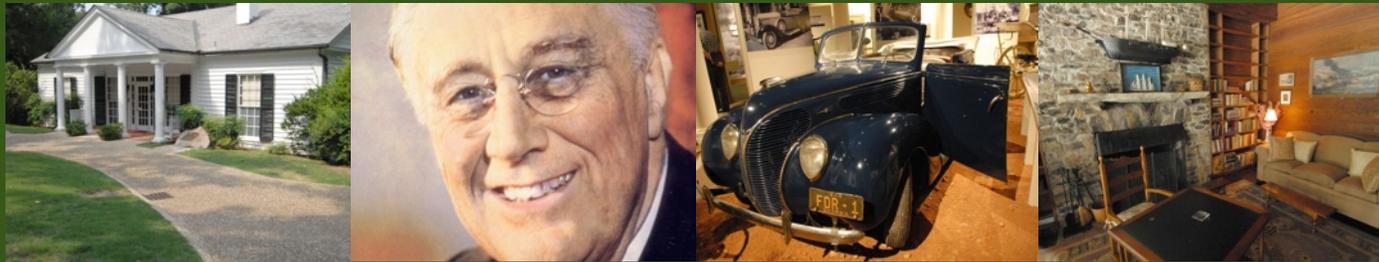


The Little White House NEWSLETTER



Roosevelt's Little White House - 706-655-5870 - 401 Little White House Rd. Warm Springs, Ga. 31830

Spring Quarter 2017

The Little White House Turns 85!

1932 was a pivotal year in US History. The Great Depression was in its third year. It was an election year. Governor Roosevelt of NY built a new cottage for himself in Warm Springs, Georgia.

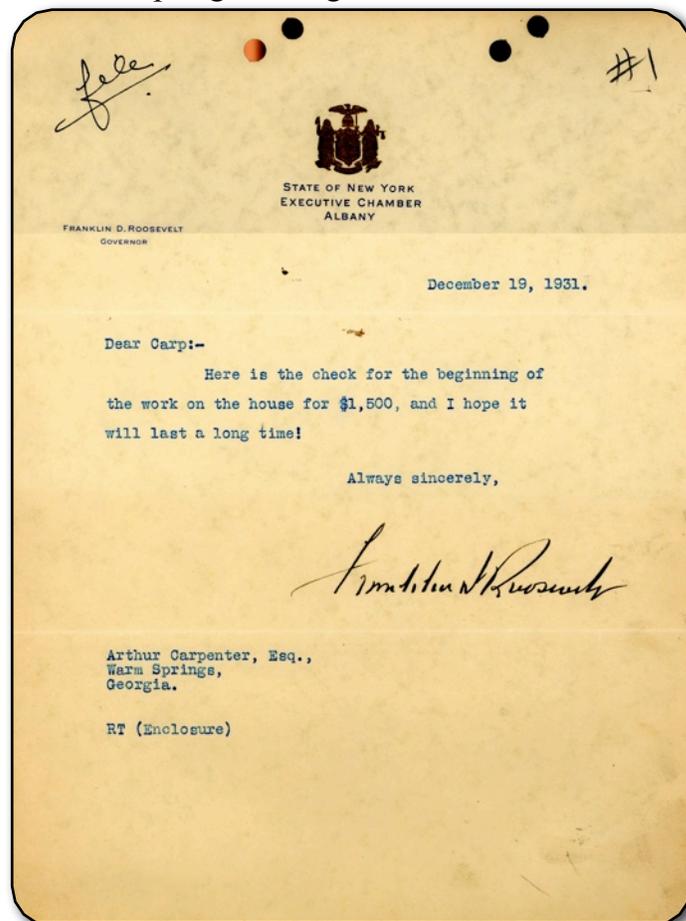
In December, 1931, FDR sent a check for \$1500 to begin construction work on his new cottage.

His first cottage (below) that he had built in 1927, was quaint and comfortable, but small. He built it before he reentered politics and as governor of New York, he needed more room, for guests, family and official business. This cottage was known as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Cottage.



At the same time, in 1931, while the United States was in the midst of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt was considering a run for the office of President. During the previous seven years, he had witnessed the effects of a crippling economy in the south. He saw the lack of education, lack of electricity, banks folding and family farms being foreclosed on.

It was during these early years in Warm Springs, Georgia that FDR developed many ideas to combat the problems faced by millions of Americans.



Citizen Roosevelt was powerless. Governor Roosevelt was able to implement some of his ideas into programs aimed at relief, recovery and reform in his home state. He knew that the presidency was where the power was, if he were to be able to achieve such a goal.

Although his therapy had all but ceased as official duties grew, he still visited Warm Springs as often as possible. He just needed a bigger residence.

In a letter from the Warm Springs Construction Company, a basic description of the cottage and Servants Quarters is seen. Fire protection was the main concern being addressed with asbestos shingles, a terra cotta flue and the location of the fire hydrant and water lines.

December 22, 1931

Haas & Howell,
Haas & Howell Bldg.,
Atlanta, Georgia.

Attention: Mr. Meriwether

Gentlemen: Re: Residence for Mr. F. D. Roosevelt

Your letter of December 19th, to Mr. Carpenter, for information for the purpose of issuing Fire Insurance Policy on residence that is to be constructed for Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, has been handed to the writer for reply.

The type of house is to be frame construction on brick wall foundation, with asbestos shingle roof.

The chimney for furnace and fire place is to be built from ground.

Flues for kitchen and servant quarters over garage is to be the suspended type on ceiling. All flues are to be lined with terra cotta flue lining.

Enclosed herewith is print that shows location of house and garage for Governor Roosevelt. Also this print shows the new road, four inch water main and fire hydrant that is to be built.

The new main will connect to the Meriwether Reserve's present eight inch main and be carried along new road and down near the garage where a standard fire hydrant will be located. The distance from house to fire hydrant will be approximately 150 feet. It is estimated that the pressure at fire hydrant will be fifty pounds. It is also estimated that this four inch main and hydrant will be completed not later than February 1st 1932.

We can furnish you the increased valuation as the house progresses in construction once per month. Construction on house and garage started approximately December 10th, 1931. Foundation walls are about 50% complete.

I believe that the information above stated is what you desired.

Yours very truly,

WARM SPRINGS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY,

By

J. W. Ewing

cc to Mr. Carpenter
Our file

Memorandum

GEORGIA WARM SPRINGS FOUNDATION, Inc.

WARM SPRINGS, GEORGIA

TO: Mr. Ewing

SUBJECT: Sherrills in New F. D. R. Cottage.

FROM: Mr. Carpenter

DATE: January 15, 1932.

There is a possibility that the Sherrills will live in Governor Roosevelt's new cottage during his absence, and in that case they will install their own electric range in the kitchen, so do not order a stove for the kitchen until that item is settled. It will, however, be necessary, of course, to order a stove for the servants' quarters.

Copy in New Roosevelt Cottage Folder.

Early in 1932, it was decided that the Sherrill's would live in Roosevelt's new cottage while he was on the campaign trail and that they would furnish their own electric stove, Meanwhile, Roosevelt sent a telegram expressing his delight that Dr. Hoke would rent his new cottage while he was away, as described in the telegram below. So it is not exactly clear who occupied the house first.

DOMESTIC SERVICE		WESTERN UNION		INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent at full rate telegram		1200		Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL	FULL RATE	DEFERRED	CODE	NIGHT LETTER
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER				
NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.		P.D. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	
					TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Received at

No 1 Q W- 26 ML
Albany NY 4/15/32

Arthur Carpenter
Warm Springs, Ga.

Delighted to have the Hokes rent my cottage what time I am not there Stop Expect only three weeks this Spring and three weeks next Autumn

Franklin D Roosevelt 7 34 AM

February 16, 1932.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The Executive Mansion,
Albany, New York.

Subject: NEW COTTAGE.

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

Here is a drawing which shows the original rectangle we laid out as a lot for you and the exact location of your new cottage upon that lot.

You will notice that the final location of the house did not bring it exactly in the centre of the lot. Do you want me to shift the whole lot a little to the south, or do you feel that it should be enlarged? In any event, it will of course be necessary to write the description in the deed in such a way that the east side of the lot will join the newly constructed road rather than being cut off square as it shows in the drawing.

While I am on the subject of the new house, what about a fence? You told me at one time that you wanted to have a fence with two gates where the little loop road goes down to the house, and if you will ever need that for self-protection it will probably be this spring. Mr. Ewing had no instructions from Mr. Toombs in that connection. Please let me hear from you.

Cordially,

Arthur Carpenter.

AC:MD

Copies to Messrs. Ewing and Toombs

In February, 1932, questions arose whether or not FDR would like a fence and gate for the loop road for protection.

Housewarming Time

FDR arrived in Warm Springs in April, 1932 and the new cottage was completed. FDR and was well on his way to beginning his campaign for president. He had even announced his intentions before patients and locals in front of the Meriwether Inn. Shortly thereafter, he decided to throw a housewarming party to celebrate his new home.

Instructions (below) were given to the Foundation telephone operators to call locals in Meriwether, Harris and adjoining counties to join him and Mrs. Roosevelt on May 5th for a "small informal house warming." A Special Bulletin was posted in the local papers inviting those who did not have a telephone in Warm Springs.



F.D.R. at Meriwether Inn making his first Campaign Speech for the Presidency

This is the telephone operator at ^{the} Warm Springs Foundation, and I am calling for Governor and Mrs. Roosevelt.

They are having a small informal house warming Thursday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:00, that is, this week, Thursday May 5th, and they asked me to call you on the telephone and invite you and your family to come and also to tell you to please invite such friends from _____ as you may want to have accompany you.
Name of town

If you get a chance to call me back by Wednesday and let me know who is coming, I will pass the word along to the Governor and Mrs. Roosevelt.

The statement (right) for the party that FDR received on May 6th was for \$31.09. This included sugar, lemons, crackers and ice, as well as, paper plates. The special even made a headline in the Atlanta newspapers. Roosevelt hired Daisy Bonner (lower right) to cook for him while in Warm Springs and she became fondly known as "Queen of the Larder" by FDR.

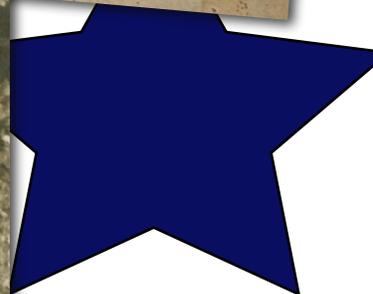
Warm Springs, Georgia, May 6, 1932.

Statement for:
Governor and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt - House Warming Party, May 5, 1932:

100 Paper Plates and Five Cakes.....	\$ 6.00
85 lbs. Sugar.....	4.25
1 Crate Lemons.....	5.00
3 Large Cartons Assorted Crackers.....	4.82
200 lbs. Ice.....	1.00
Extra Charge for Help.....	10.00
Total	\$31.07

By _____

FDR's Party for Whole Town Of Warm Springs Cost \$31



Franklin D Roosevelt's New Cottage Gets A Name

Governor Roosevelt approved the final costs of just over \$7000 for the cottage on May 7, 1932. He now owned two personal cottages and while he was away, he wanted to rent them out. The Accounting Dept. at the Foundation tried to figure out how to keep the income from the rents separated and Arthur Carpenter established the rules for doing so. Keep in mind that FDR was running for President of the United States and everyone in Warm Springs, Georgia knew that Roosevelt was going to win.

With that in mind, read the instructions given to Fred Botts below explaining how to separate the two Franklin D. Roosevelt cottages from one another. In doing so, Carpenter officially gave the new cottage it's name: The Little White House, *and it stuck.*

STATEMENT SHOWING TOTAL COST FOR ERECTION AND EQUIPMENT OF NEW RESIDENCE FOR MR. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AT WARM SPRINGS, GA.

Total Contract (Daniel Lumber Co.)		\$ 7,186.00
Extras as authorized by Mr. Toombs -		
December 18, 1931		
January 12, 1932	\$ 7.00	
February 1, 1932	16.80	
March 29, 1932	17.50	
	5.00	
	8.00	
	2.00	
	<u>40.00</u>	
Hardware (Russel & Erwin)		96.30
Water Main		171.00
Removing Electrical Fixtures from old house		193.90
Telephone Line		2.80
Stove and stove pipes for Servant Quarters		43.96
Premium on Bond Policy #1890		14.80
Premium on Fire Insurance Policy #839		72.09
Shrubbery Plants (Concord Nurseries)		35.45
Tree and Plant Surgery, surgical material and supervision of planting by Albert Conradi		52.20
Bath Room Fixtures purchased by Mrs. Ralph Sherrill		58.50
Labor furnished by Meriwether Reserve for planting, tree work, etc.		16.05
Material		
Furnished by Warm Springs Construction Company (net) -		12.50
Equipment		
Labor	\$ 46.95	
Supervision (J.W.Ewing)	60.91	
	20.00	
	<u>107.73</u>	
Total Cost		<u>234.59</u>
Credits - Checks received from Mr. Roosevelt as follows -		\$ 8,186.14
December 26, 1931 - \$22		
February 2, 1932 - 24		
February 20, 1932 - 25	\$ 1,500.00	
March 4, 1932 - 27	1,500.00	
April 18, 1932 - 33	3,000.00	
	<u>1,500.00</u>	
Balance due from Mr. Roosevelt -		<u>7,900.00</u>
		<u>\$ 288.14</u>

*Approved & accepted
Franklin D. Roosevelt
May 17 1932*

Memorandum

GEORGIA WARM SPRINGS FOUNDATION, Inc.
WARM SPRINGS, GEORGIA

TO: Dr. Michael Hoke (CONFIDENTIAL)

FROM: Mr. Arthur Carpenter

SUBJECT: Roosevelt Cottage

DATE: May 30, 1932

I have meant to explain to you the fact that Governor Roosevelt told me he wanted no income for his cottage other than insurance, taxes, upkeep (i. e., minor repairs), etc.

We will, therefore, credit to an account for the Franklin Roosevelt Cottage your monthly payments of \$125.00. We will charge the account with the \$60.00 per month for the Smith Cottage, occupied by the Sherrills whom you displaced at the Roosevelt Cottage, and the balance will be credited to the account and will eventually make it possible for us to reduce the monthly payments probably to something like \$60.00 per month instead of the present \$125.00.

NOTE TO MR. BOTTS FROM MR. CARPENTER:

Instruct the Accounting Department to set up an entirely separate account for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Cottage. If you want to keep it distinguished from the old Franklin D. Roosevelt Cottage, call it, "The Little White House."



The Little White House

Footnote

A Presidential Image

Atlanta photographer Thurston Hatcher was hired by Clark Howell to photograph FDR as he needed some official portraits to begin his campaign for president. These are the first images of Franklin D. Roosevelt inside his new "Little White House" just as he begins what will be a rendezvous with destiny. These are on display in our museum.

