



# Foundation Document

## John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site

Massachusetts

December 2015

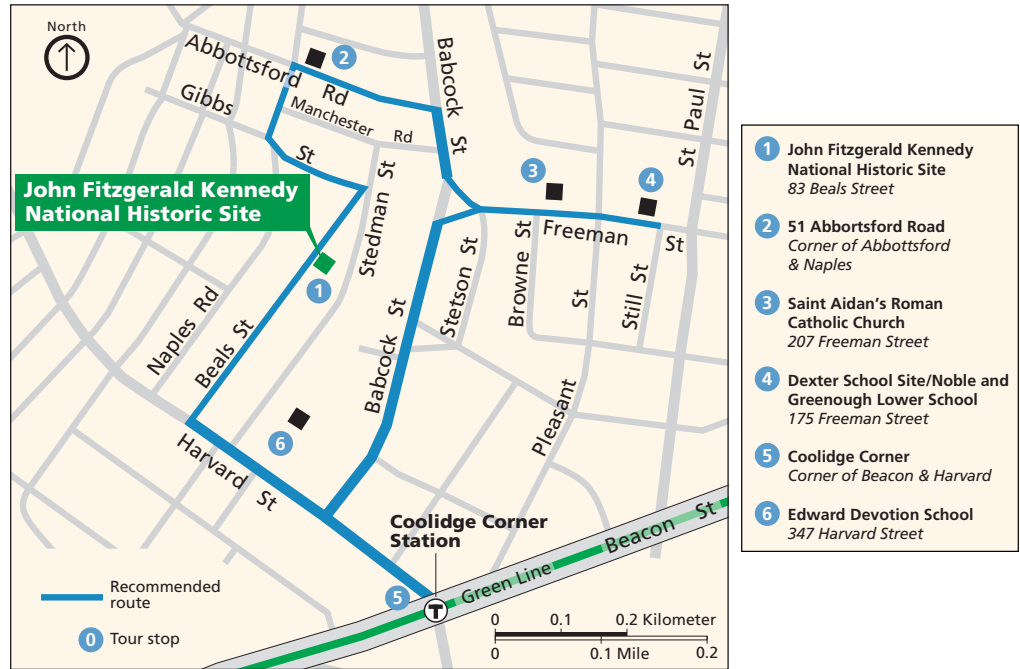


**Small photos on the cover:**

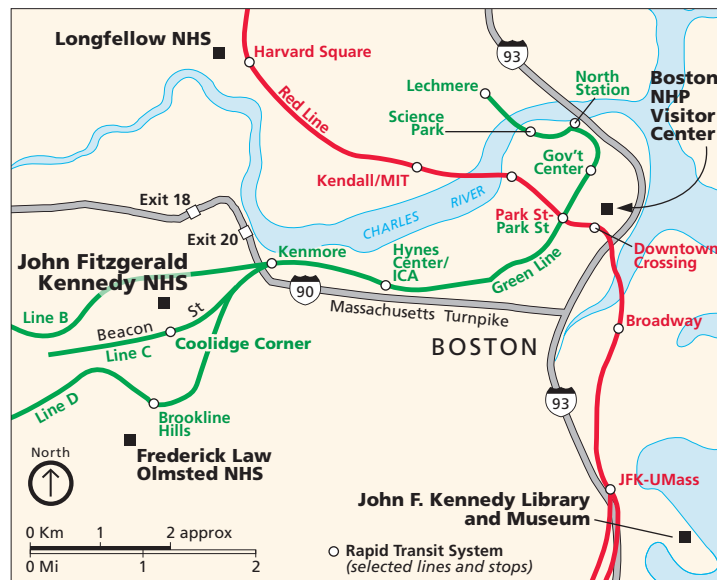
**Left:** John F. and Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., at 83 Beals Street, Easter, 1919.

**Center:** President John F. Kennedy.

**Right:** The president's mother Mrs. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy showing the house deed to the Beals Street neighbors, May 29, 1969, the date the transfer of the property to the National Park Service was publicly celebrated.

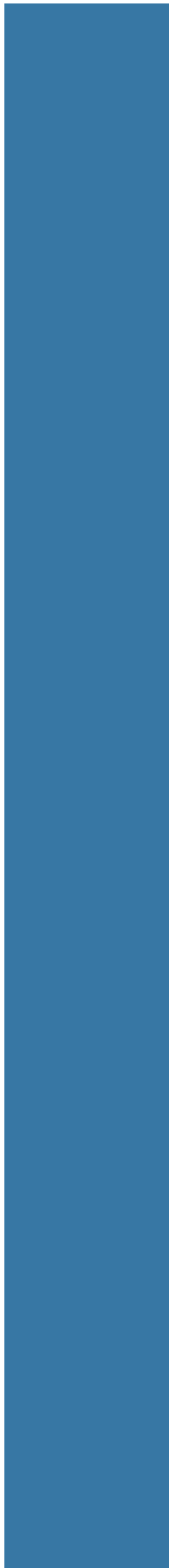


Coolidge Corner, Brookline, neighborhood map.



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*National Day of Mourning for President Kennedy, Beals Street, November 25, 1963.*



## Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



*The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.*

## Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.



JFK in the Oval Office, White House, Oct., 1962.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.

## Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.



Coolidge Corner, Brookline, 1915.

## Brief Description of the Park

John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, at 83 Beals Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, is the birthplace and first childhood home (1917–1920) of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States. The house, situated on a 0.1-acre plot, was built in 1909. In this, their first home, Joseph and Rose Kennedy began to instill in their children the family's ideals and aspirations. Almost 50 years later, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy repurchased the house and thoughtfully crafted a re-creation of the home's interior (1914–1920) as a gift to the American people in the aftermath of the president's assassination. The site was established as a unit of the National Park Service by Public Law 90-20 in 1967 and opened to the public 2 years later.

The historic house, grounds, and collections of the John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, as well as the views to and from the surrounding Brookline community, preserve the context of the formative years of one of the nation's leading political families. Four of the nine Kennedy children were born while the family resided at 83 Beals Street: Joseph, Jr.; John; Rosemary; and Kathleen. When John Kennedy was 3 years old, his parents sold the house and moved to a larger residence nearby at 51 Abbottsford Road. In 1927, the Kennedy family moved to New York.

Today the National Park Service presents guided tours of the house, with its display of household furnishings, photographs, and significant mementos personally collected by Mrs. Kennedy. Many pieces in the collection are original to the 1914–1920 historic period and reflect the lifestyle and various interests of the Kennedys. An audio tour narrated by Mrs. Kennedy provides visitors with an evocative glimpse of family life in Brookline. Mrs. Kennedy's treatment of the house, her selection and placement of objects and furnishings, and her recorded memories of life here suggest how she wanted the public to remember her son, her family, and their place in American history. Through a variety of traditional and contemporary means—including ranger-led and self-guided house tours, social media outreach, Junior Ranger programs, curriculum-based teacher conferences, cellphone tours, etc.—the National Park Service offers a range of visitor options for experiencing the site. Rangers also offer tours of the nearby neighborhood, which includes viewing the second Kennedy home at 51 Abbottsford Road, schools where the children studied, and Saint Aidan's Roman Catholic Church, where the family worshipped. John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site is also significant for its connection to the President Kennedy commemorative period of 1960–1969 as well as ongoing memorial activities related to members of the Kennedy family. The National Register of Historic Places has recently recognized the expanded significance of the site by documenting the commemorative efforts relating to the establishment of the site between 1963 and 1969 and the personal involvement of Rose Kennedy between 1966 and 1969. The annual visitation at the site in 2012 was 22,642 (late May–October).

There are 1,360 objects in the park's collection, consisting of a mixture of artifacts original to the house, items that belonged to the Kennedy family, and period pieces. The collections include furniture, books, photographs, textiles, ceramics, and glassware. The historic furnishings acquired or returned to the house by Mrs. Kennedy were arranged in the late 1960s as she remembered them appearing during the family's occupancy (1914–1920). John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site also possesses a small collection of documents related to the site, primarily NPS site management records and ephemera related to the history of the Kennedy family.

The site is jointly managed with Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline and Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site in Cambridge. John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site is located in the Coolidge Corner area, which is Brookline's primary commercial district and a leading example of a streetcar suburb.



*John F. Kennedy at six months of age.*



*St. Aidan's Roman Catholic Church, where the Kennedy Family worshipped.*



Mrs. Rose Kennedy and interior decorator Robert Luddington, who helped refurbish 83 Beals Street, May 29, 1969.

## Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on May 26, 1967 (see appendix A for enabling legislation). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park. The following purpose statement was based on the review of park legislation, previous management documents, and discussions with park staff:

*As a gift from Mrs. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy to the people of the United States, JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE preserves and interprets the birthplace and first home of the 35th president of the United States.*

## Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

1. John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site is the birthplace and early childhood home of the 35th president of the United States.
2. It was here, in their first home, that Joseph and Rose Kennedy began to cultivate and instill in their children the family's ideals, aspirations, and ambitions.
3. Mrs. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy repurchased the home in 1966 and, guided by her recollections, carefully re-created the birthplace as a gift to the American people in the lingering wake of the president's assassination.
4. The historic house, collections, and neighboring Brookline community preserve the context within which one of the nation's most powerful political families was formed and permit exploration of early influences that helped to shape the character and ambitions of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.



Ceremony marking 50th anniversary of 1963 National Day of Mourning for President Kennedy, November 24, 2013.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site:

- John Fitzgerald Kennedy birthplace and childhood home includes both house and landscape (83 Beals Street, Brookline, Massachusetts)
- Collections and archives
- Viewshed of the Brookline neighborhood from and to the John Fitzgerald Kennedy childhood home



*Nursery, with christening dress worn by all Kennedy children.*



*Kitchen, with pot for baked beans.*



## Interpretive Themes



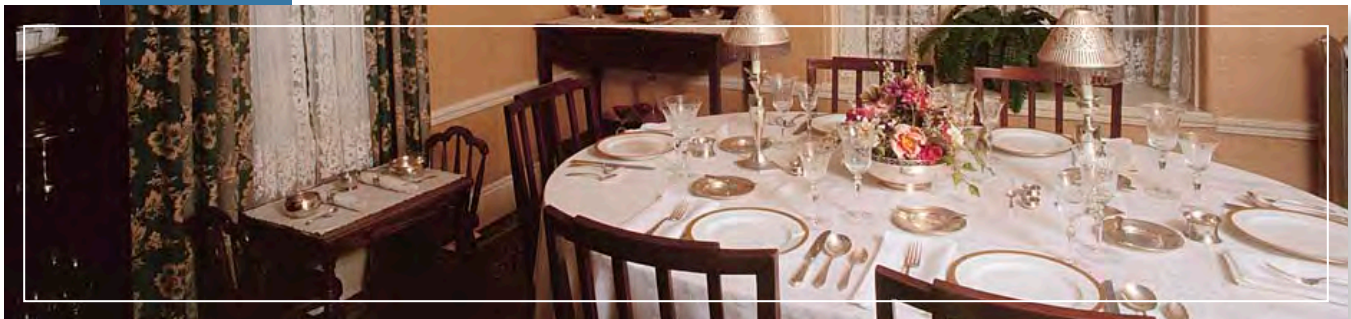
*Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Patrick Kennedy on their wedding day, October 7, 1914.*

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site:

- **Family Beginnings.** The Kennedy family home at 83 Beals Street represents the beginning of Joseph and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy’s married life together, and offers opportunities to explore the hope, uncertainty, opportunity, resolve, and accomplishment that defined the Kennedys’ Brookline years as they formed their large family, began their upward climb, and embraced new roles and expanding spheres of influence in a rapidly changing world.
- **Formative Influences.** Joseph and Rose Kennedy’s ambitious life choices, high expectations, belief in human agency, religious faith, and commitment to family and country shaped the home environment in which young Jack Kennedy defined himself and his role in the family, and developed a foundation in character that inspired a life of public service.
- **Legacy and Commemoration.** Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy’s treatment of the house, her selection and arrangement of objects, and her recorded memories of life in Brookline suggest how she wanted future generations to view the beginnings of the president’s life, and invite the public to imagine how the waning years of the 1960s—characterized by national mourning, social turmoil, and political unrest—may have informed her commemorative treatment of the house and stories of the family’s Brookline years
- **Intersections of History and Memory.** The Kennedy birthplace, boyhood home, historic neighborhood, and associated landmarks offer visitors opportunities to experience much of the physical environment of the early 20th century Kennedys, and to reflect on how successive generations construct and reinterpret history and memory.



*Dining Room, with Children’s Table near window.*

## Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

### Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site.

#### Special Mandates

There are no special mandates associated with John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site.

#### Administrative Commitments

John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site is cooperatively managed together with Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, in Brookline, Massachusetts. The sites share one superintendent and some support services, including maintenance, administration, and educational programming.



*Children's Table, Dining Room, with John F. Kennedy monogrammed bowl.*



## Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park’s fundamental resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park’s planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

### Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Kennedy Birthplace House and Landscape
Related Significance Statements	1, 2, 3, 4
Current Conditions and Trends	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kennedy Birthplace house is furnished much as Rose Kennedy arranged it in the late 1960s. This is her interpretation of the house from 1914 to 1920. She narrated the audio recordings, guiding the visitor through the layout of the house.</li> <li>• The Asset Priority Index (API) for the house is 100, determining that it is extremely important culturally and supports the park purpose.</li> <li>• According to the Facility Condition Index (FCI), the house is in good condition. Nevertheless, there has been some deferred maintenance on the house, and the park is seeking funding to make improvements. The FCI for the landscape also rates it as being in good condition.</li> <li>• Limited space for greeting visitors, mounting exhibits, and showing films, and the fact that there is only one rest room, constrain the capability of John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site to provide a fulfilling visitor experience. In addition, space for staff is extremely limited and the historic house does not provide universal accessibility. A consultant study found it would be difficult to provide it without damaging the building’s historic fabric.</li> <li>• As the John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site is administered jointly with the Frederick Law Olmsted and Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters national historic sites, they share a leased maintenance facility located in the Brighton area of Boston.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing demographics mean that fewer visitors have a direct recollection of President Kennedy. There is a growing proportion of foreign visitors, who may need to be accommodated in different ways from domestic visitors.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Kennedy Birthplace House and Landscape
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the Kennedy Birthplace house continues to age, there are ongoing structural preservation and safety issues. With many visitors and staff members operating in tight quarters, there can be significant wear and tear on the fabric of the house.</li> <li>With the house's location in a densely developed historic neighborhood, the fabric of the surrounding cultural landscape, which is outside the park boundary, is beyond the control of the National Park Service.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, in Boston, the park has an important partner for interpreting the life of President Kennedy. Though lacking a formal agreement, John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site should continue to pursue collaborative opportunities with the Kennedy presidential library.</li> <li>Because the John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site is an important historic site and tourist attraction in Brookline, there are several local stakeholders who can and do help in interpretation and preservation. The site should continue to pursue partnership opportunities with the Town of Brookline, Brookline Preservation Commission, Brookline Historical Society, Public Schools of Brookline, Edward Devotion School, and local tourism organizations.</li> </ul>
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of the baseline studies have been completed including a historic resource study (2007), historic structures report (2002), cultural landscape report (2013), and archeological overview and assessment (2008).</li> </ul>
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate options for expanding visitor contact opportunities beyond the site boundaries.</li> <li>Develop a plan for enhancing educational programming for Brookline and Boston schools.</li> <li>Develop a plan for a permanent maintenance and administrative facility in close proximity to John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, along with Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters and Frederick Law Olmsted national historic sites.</li> </ul>
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations that Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935</li> <li>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470)</li> <li>Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>"Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> (1998)</li> <li><i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i></li> <li><i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i></li> </ul>

<b>Fundamental Resource or Value</b>	<b>Collections and Archives</b>
<b>Related Significance Statements</b>	1, 2, 3, 4
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the furnishings owned by John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site are on display at the house, because the furnishings were selected specifically as part of the historical displays.</li> <li>• About one quarter of the collection is in storage, primarily textiles, newspapers, and magazines.</li> <li>• The site’s archives are stored in 15–20 boxes at Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site in Cambridge, Massachusetts.</li> <li>• The storage of the archives at another location makes it complicated to access them.</li> <li>• A 2005 NPS historic furnishings assessment makes detailed recommendations for changing the placement of objects to fit with their arrangement in 1969.</li> <li>• The 1999 collection management plan found that many textiles were in poor condition and required conservation treatment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The collections are of interest to those researching President Kennedy and the Kennedy family as well as those researching memorialization in American society.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection objects exhibited in the house are subject to wear and tear from visitors and environmental conditions. The 1999 collection management plan found that many textiles were in poor condition and required conservation treatment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With substantial interest in President Kennedy and his family, there is potential for expanding the interpretive and educational use of the site’s collections.</li> </ul>
<b>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the baseline documentation has been completed including a collection management plan (1999), collection condition survey (1990 and 2008), and historic furnishings report (1971 and 2005).</li> </ul>
<b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop plan deciding whether to continue storage and management of the collections at Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site or move elsewhere in order to ensure proper long-term storage and protection of the collections.</li> <li>• Expand the scope of collections statement to include objects related to the Kennedy family’s residence in Brookline (1914–1927) and the 1960s memorial period.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations that Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Museum Act (16 USC 18f through 18f-3)</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management”</li> <li>• Director’s Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></li> <li>• Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> (1998)</li> <li>• NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III</li> </ul>

Fundamental Value or Value	Viewshed of the Brookline Neighborhood from and to the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Childhood Home
Related Significance Statements	4
Current Conditions and Trends	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Coolidge Corner area of Brookline, Massachusetts, which was transformed into a streetcar suburb in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, preserves the context within which one of the nation's most powerful political families was formed. The limited size of the park (0.1 acre comprising the house and yard of 83 Beals Street) makes these views essential to the experience of the park visitor.</li> <li>The neighborhood surrounding both the Kennedy's first Brookline home (83 Beals Street) and their second home a few blocks away on Abbottsford Road still retains the historic street layout, streetscape, and London plane trees (on Beals Street), and almost all of the historic architecture that existed when the Kennedys lived in Brookline between 1914 and 1927.</li> <li>The neighborhood has landmarks related to the Kennedy family besides the Kennedy birthplace, including the Kennedys' 51 Abbottsford Road house (1920–1927), which is included in the National Register of Historic Places' Graffam-McKay Development Historic District; Edward Devotion School (President Kennedy attended this school for three years); historic Edward Devotion House (located on school property and in the national register); Dexter School site (President Kennedy attended school here for three years); the former St. Aidan's Roman Catholic Church (now converted to housing and called "The Saint Aidan"), which is listed in the national register; and the Coolidge Corner shopping district, where several buildings are included in the national register's Beacon Street Historic District.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Town of Brookline has drafted, though not officially adopted, a Coolidge Corner District Plan, which seeks to preserve the historical qualities of the area while promoting economic development. Because John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site is part of the study area, the district plan called for working with the National Park Service "to enhance the visibility of the Kennedy birthplace and to preserve his boyhood neighborhood as a significant resource for the Town, the nation, and the world."</li> </ul>
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The real estate values in Brookline are among the highest in the Boston metropolitan area, yielding pressures to alter and develop both residential and commercial properties. Over time, these pose a definite threat to the maintenance of the historic character and integrity of the Coolidge Corner area, including the "Kennedy neighborhood," which has remained remarkably intact.</li> <li>Currently buildings on Beals Street, where the site is located, are not included in either a National Register of Historic Places or a Town of Brookline local historic district, and thus lack the identity and protections that those designations bring.</li> <li>Impact of staff use (offices, kitchen, etc.) on the historic structure remains a concern.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is strong community interest in preserving the neighborhood where the John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site is situated. The town tree warden has an interest in the maintenance and succession planning for the historic London plane trees on Beals Street. The property owners in the neighborhood regard themselves as stakeholders in the preservation of the national historic site and the preservation of the surrounding neighborhood.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Value or Value	Viewshed of the Brookline Neighborhood from and to the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Childhood Home
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cultural landscape report (2013) contains a detailed analysis of the views to and from the park and the importance of preserving key landscape features and preservation of the spatial organization of the neighborhood.</li> </ul>
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership viewshed management plan – This plan would identify strategies to cooperatively conserve the park’s setting and its view to and from the park by preserving adjacent historic houses, preserving the London plane trees on Beal Street, evaluate the potential easement protection surrounding the park, evaluate potential for designating local and national register historic districts surrounding the park, and for providing enhanced interpretive opportunities outside of the park boundary.</li> </ul>
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations that Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable</li> </ul>



View (c. 1910) from the intersection of Harvard and Beals Streets, looking northeast on Beals towards the site of what will become JFK’s birthplace, near the end of the block on the right.



## Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions not directly related to purpose and significance, but still indirectly affects them. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

**Preservation of the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Birthplace.** The park should implement a comprehensive resource management plan that balances the need to preserve this small, fragile, historic house in excellent condition and minimize wear and tear while encouraging the public to visit it. Such a strategy must address preservation, visitor use, and staff facilities issues, particularly in the basement visitor contact area and the third floor staff offices. These were identified in Einhorn Yaffee Prescott's analysis of facility needs (2009).

**Enhancing Visitor Experience, Interpretation, and Education.** In order to enhance interpretation and the visitor experience, as well as decrease physical stress on 83 Beals Street, the park should attempt to find appropriate commercial space in the area for a visitor contact station. This could be space collocated with other local entities. This space would enable the park to enhance interpretation of the Kennedy family and their presence in Brookline. It would also enable the park to develop a strategy for improving educational programming for Brookline and Boston schools.

**Permanent Maintenance Facility.** John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site has a jointly leased maintenance facility at 223 North Beacon Street, Brighton, Massachusetts, with Frederick Law Olmsted and Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters national historic sites. The parks need a permanent home for their maintenance functions.

**Engage Kennedy Sites.** The park should identify and explore opportunities to cooperate with other Kennedy-related sites in Massachusetts and elsewhere.

**Transportation Improvements.** The park should implement *Volpe National Transportation Systems Center's Transportation Study (2010)* recommendations for supporting walking, biking, and use of public transit to reach the park.

**Collections and Archives.** To ensure proper long-term storage and protection of the collections, develop a plan deciding whether to continue storage and management of the collections at Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site or move them elsewhere. Expand use of the site's collections in interpretive and educational programming. Increase the scope of collections to include objects related to the Kennedy family's residence in Brookline (1914–1927) and the 1960s memorial period.

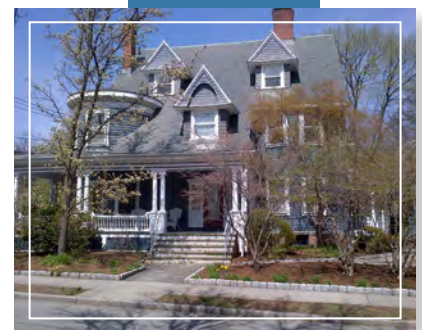
**Preservation of John Fitzgerald Kennedy Birthplace Neighborhood.** Efforts should be made to explore preservation of the exterior of historic houses immediately surrounding 83 Beals Street, either through preservation easements or a local historic district designation. The easements could be held by local government or a nonprofit entity. Efforts should include the possibility of preservation easements for the second Kennedy home at 51 Abbottsford Road. The park should work with the Town of Brookline to develop a plan to preserve the London plane trees on Beals Street.



Tour in Front Hall of JFK Birthplace.



Visitor Center interior.



51 Abbottsford Road, Brookline, home of Kennedy family, 1920–1927.

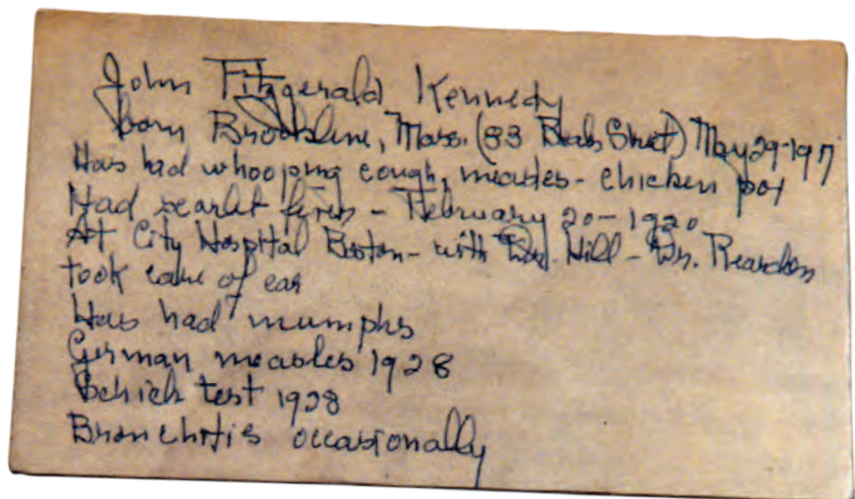
### Prioritization of Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Related to an FRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)
Yes	Develop a plan for a permanent maintenance facility in close proximity to John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, along with Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters and Frederick Law Olmsted national historic sites.	H
Yes	Develop a new scope of collections statement.	H
Yes	Working with Town of Brookline, develop partnership viewshed management plan that would address preservation of historic structures surrounding John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site and relating to Kennedy Family's residence in Brookline and the London plane trees on Beals Street.	H
Yes	Develop collection storage plan for either continuing storage of collection at Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site or moving it elsewhere to ensure safe long-term storage of collection.	M
Yes	Develop plan for expanding visitor contact opportunities beyond the site boundaries.	M

Contained in a file box in her boudoir, Mrs. Rose Kennedy kept card files on her children's health, including this one for John Fitzgerald Kennedy.



## Part 3: Preparers and Meeting Attendees

### Preparers

#### National Park Service Northeast Region Office

**James C. O'Connell**, Project Manager

**David Bitterman**, Branch Chief, Design and Preservation Planning

**Tim Layton**, Historical Landscape Architect, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

**Carol Perrault**, Architectural Historian

#### John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site

**Myra Harrison**, Superintendent

**Lee Farrow Cook**, Site Manager

**Scott Fletcher**, Buildings Supervisor

**James Roberts**, Supervisory Park Ranger

**Liza Stearns**, Education Specialist

**Beth Wear**, Management Assistant

### Meeting Attendees

#### Brookline Public Schools

**Gretchen Albertini**, Edward Devotion School

**Norm Finkelstein**, Edward Devotion School (Emeritus), Librarian/Author

**Geoff Tegnell**, Curriculum Coordinator

#### Brookline Residents/Town Meeting Members

**Patricia Connors**, Town Meeting Member

**Martha Farlow**, Edward Devotion School (Emeritus), Town Meeting Member

**Peg Senturia**, Town Meeting Member

**Ann Stitt**

#### John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

**Sam Rubin**, Education Specialist

#### Office of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

**Julie Ryder**, Congressional Aide

#### John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site

**Lee Farrow Cook**, Site Manager

**David Daly**, Curator

**Lisa Duff**, Management Assistant

**Myra Harrison**, Superintendent

**Celena Illuzzi**, Education Specialist

**Liza Stearns**, Education Specialist



*Park ranger greets visitors.*



*Devotion School 3rd grader stands for recognition during annual "What John F. Kennedy Means to Me" ceremony.*

## National Park Service Northeast Region

**Ellen Carlson**, Community Planner

**Christine Arato**, Chief Historian

**Margie Coffin Brown**, Historical Landscape Architect, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

**Robert Fudge**, Program Manager, Interpretation and Education

**Elizabeth Hoermann**, Education Specialist, Northeast Center for Education Services

**Louis Hutchins**, Curator, Northeast Museum Services Center

**Terrence Moore**, Chief, Park Planning and Special Studies

**Debbie Smith**, Historical Landscape Architect, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

**Kathy Tevyaw**, Education Specialist, Northeast Center for Education Services

**Paul Weinbaum**, Program Manager for History



*Left: Ranger Tour, Front Porch.*



*Above: Living Room.*

## Appendix A: Enabling Legislation And Legislative Acts For John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site

PL 90-20: An Act to establish the John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in order to preserve in public ownership and for the purpose of establishing the birthplace of John Fitzgerald Kennedy as a national historic site, the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to acquire by donation the property in the town of Brookline, county of Norfolk, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with improvements thereon, situated on Beals Street, shown on a plan entitled "Subdivision lot 4 Plan Beals' Estate, Brookline, Oct. 1897, Joseph E. Carr, C.E." recorded with Norfolk Deeds, book 1080, page 461, and bounded and described as follows:

Northwesterly by Beals Street, 50 ft.;

Northeasterly by lot 30 on plan recorded with said deeds at the end of book 800, 72.46 ft.;

Southeasterly by lot 48 on said last mentioned plan, 50.51 ft.;

And, southwesterly by a part of lot 47 on said last mentioned plan conveyed by Robert M. Goode to Estille c. Ralph, by deed recorded with said deeds, book 1092, page 53, 80.33 ft.

Such property having erected thereon a dwelling which is the birthplace of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The Secretary is further authorized to acquire personal property used and to be used in connection therewith.

Sec. 2. The Secretary shall administer the John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site in accordance with the Act approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and the Act approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), as amended.

Approved: May 26, 1967



*Master Bedroom, where John F. Kennedy was born (bed closer to window) on May 29, 1917.*

## Photo Credits

### **Front Cover.**

**John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site exterior.** Photo Credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service, October 2012

**John F. and Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. at 83 Beals St., Easter 1920.** Photo credit: Kennedy Family Collection, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation

**JFK.** Photo Credit: Public Domain/Ted Spiegel

**Mrs. Kennedy with deed.** Photo Credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service, May 1969

### **ii.**

**1963 National Day of Mourning.** Photo credit: Temple Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA

### **Page 2.**

**JFK at desk.** Photo credit: Public Domain

**Coolidge Corner, View looking west of Beacon Street c. 1915.** Photo credit: Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archives, Town of Brookline Survey

### **Page 3.**

**JFK at six months.** Photo credit: Kennedy Family Collection, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation

**Saint Aidan's Roman Catholic Church.** Photo credit: Brookline Historical Society

### **Page 4.**

**Robert Luddington and Mrs. Kennedy.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service, May 1969

**Ceremony at 83 Beals Street.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service, November 2013

### **Page 5.**

**Nursery.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Robert Perron

**Kitchen.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Robert Perron

### **Page 6.**

**Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy wedding photo.** Photo credit: Boston Globe

**Dining Room.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Robert Perron

### **Page 7.**

**Small dining table.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Robert Perron

**JFK's porringer.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Robert Perron

### **Page 12.**

**View from the intersection of Harvard and Beals Streets, looking northeast on Beals, circa 1910s.** Photo credit: Stanley Album, The Public Library of Brookline

### **Page 13.**

**Tour in Front Hall.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Joel Veak

**Visitor Center interior photo.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Matt Teuten

**51 Abbottsford Road.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service

### **Page 14.**

**JFK's health card.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Robert Perron

### **Page 15.**

**Park Ranger Greets Visitors.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Joel Veak

**Devotion School 3rd grader stands for recognition during annual "What John F. Kennedy Means to Me" ceremony.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Matt Teuten

### **Page 16.**

**Ranger Tour.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service

**Living Room.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Robert Perron

### **Page 17.**

**Master Bedroom.** Photo credit: John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site, National Park Service/Robert Perron

### **Back Cover.**

**Mrs. Kennedy w/Joe, Jr., Rosemary, & Jack, 1918.** Photo credit: Kennedy Family Collection, Bachrach Photography, Boston

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## Northeast Region Foundation Document Recommendation John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site

September 2015

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This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Northeast Regional Director.

*Myra F. Harrison*

*9/11/2015*

RECOMMENDED

Myra Harrison, Superintendent, John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site

Date

*Brian Struch Assoc Regional Director*

*10/23/2015*

APPROVED

for Michael Caldwell, Regional Director, Northeast Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic 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 by encouraging stewardship and 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.

JOFI 439/123078A

December 2015

Back Cover: Mrs. Rose Kennedy with Joseph P., Jr., Rosemary, and John F. Kennedy, ca. 1919.

Foundation Document • John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site

