



Hotel Wentworth was ideally located to house the peace envoys. Courtesy of Richard Candee.

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL YARD PREPARES FOR THE CONFERENCE

ポーツマス海軍工廠、会議に向けて準備を始める

On July 10, 1905, the Portsmouth Herald announced that the negotiations would be held at the naval yard, and Rear Admiral William Mead was charged on short notice with making the yard ready. Additional telegraph lines were installed for the delegates and Assistant Secretary Peirce, who was responsible for keeping Roosevelt informed during the negotiations. Mead requested a marine detachment not only for security, but also as part of the protocol arrangements for the distinguished visitors. Four forty-foot cutters were fitted to provide transportation as needed between the yard and the Wentworth. A twenty-five-man detachment of sailors crewed the steam launches during the conference.



The treaty conference room. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenaeum.

NILES COTTAGE - ナイルズ・コテージ

In one of the first acts of local private contributions for the peace process, retired Boston investment banker and artist Edward G. Niles and his wife gave up their waterfront home on Wild Rose Lane in New Castle to Assistant Secretary Peirce, who was to act as the representative of the United States government charged with receiving and assisting the negotiators.

PORTSMOUTH AND THE WENTWORTH

ポーツマスとウェントワース・ホテル

Once Roosevelt chose the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Governor McLane and local Portsmouth political leaders immediately approached the Wentworth Hotel, the most prominent summer hotel in the Portsmouth region, to provide accommodations. With room for 500 guests, the Wentworth could accommodate not only the delegates, but also its usual summer guests. Judge Calvin Page, former Portsmouth mayor and trustee in charge of the Wentworth, immediately agreed and Portsmouth became the unlikely site of the negotiations.



The Portsmouth Peace Treaty negotiations were held in the General Stores Building, now called Building 86, at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenaeum.

THE NEGOTIATION ROOMS - 講和会議室

It would take 200 men, working around the clock, four days to convert the top floor of the naval stores building into the space needed for negotiations. In the building's one large room, partitions were erected to create space for the conference meeting room, three-room suites on each side for each delegation, a reception room for the United States representatives, eating facilities, and two fireproof rooms for document storage. Ordered from Washington, the furniture was made of mahogany in the style of the cabinet room in the White House. Oriental rugs completed the décor.



Niles Cottage was the scene of many social events during the peace conference. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenaeum.