

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

S

FOIA Number:

S

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Backup Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13838
Folder ID Number: 13838-005

Folder Title:
White House History Symposium 10/13/92 [OA 8486]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	23	1	7

(Grossman)
October 12, 1992
WHITEHOUSE

very nice

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: WHITE HOUSE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM
OCTOBER 13, 1992

- o Barbara and I want to thank everyone for coming over to share this celebration with us. I want to welcome members of the White House Historical Association and the National Park Service, and everyone who's come here to learn about - - and be a part of history.
- o Dr. William Seale is here, and I want to congratulate him on his new book The White House. I want to keep this brief -- I've learned to leave the real Presidential Lectures to the pros: Dr. David McCollough and Dr. Robert Remini (REH mini). And of course, our own White House Curator, Rex Scouten.
- o Barbara and I have just come from burying a time capsule in the back yard -- no live Democrats, I promise.
- o As we were walking back here, we talked about how much we loved this old house -- talked about the things that don't make headlines, but that make this house a home. Our trusty alarm clocks: Millie and Rangers. Good friends. Children that still come to dinner. And of course, meetings with important dignitaries: our grandchildren.

- o I remember one State Dinner right here in the East Room. The Marine Corps Band was playing, guests were dancing -- and I look up the grand staircase, and who do I see but a couple of my grandchildren staying up way past their bedtime. When all the politics is over, and the reporters have gone home for the day, this is the real White House to Barbara and me.

- o Think of what this room has seen: weddings and funerals, children playing, even Dolly Madison hanging the laundry up to dry. Try to imagine all the great memories yet to be made, all the history waiting to happen in this very room. You've helped make a little history today. Barbara and I thank you for sharing this bicentennial with us, and best of luck with your Symposium.

Teddy Roosevelt

giving kids pony rides?

is this one

true or

apocryphal?

53

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

CIRCLE ONE BELOW:

IMMEDIATE

PRIORITY

ROUTINE

MODE:

SECURE FAX # 01

ADMIN FAX #

PAGES 10

DTG 092032Z OCT 92

RELEASER
TOP: 092041Z
SK

FROM / LOCATION: CHRISTINA MARTIN / CINCINNATI 0410

ACTION / LOCATION:

TIME OF RECEIPT

- 1. JENNIFER GROSSMAN / W4SR
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

INFORMATION / LOCATION:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

REMARKS:

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

UNCLAS

Ⓟ 092032 Z

FAX # 1

PLEASE FAX TO:

JENNIFER GROSSMAN
X7750, RM III 1/2 OEGB
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FROM:

CHRISTINA MARTIN

JG - 2 pgs TP's due Mon. noon
Kathy Fenton ⁷⁰⁶⁹ has add'l
event log. info.

THANKS!



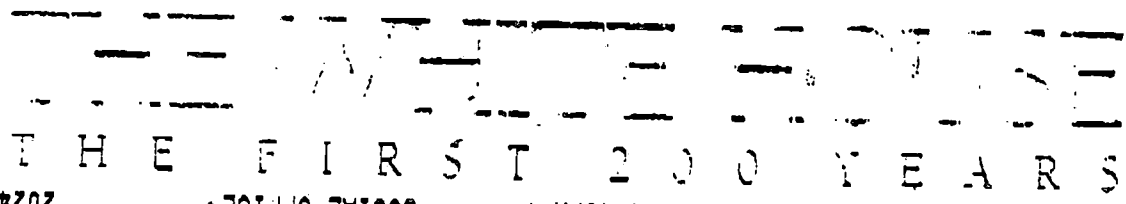
The White House: The First 200 Years A History Symposium

Construction of the White House officially began in October, 1792, with the ceremonial laying of the cornerstones. Two hundred years later, the White House Historical Association and the National Park Service are sponsoring a symposium on the history of the White House. The symposium will be held at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., from October 13-15, 1992.

As the first federal building under construction in the new District of Columbia, the President's House was designed in the 1790s to serve a variety of functions and project a certain image of our country both here and abroad. Two hundred years have passed since the ceremonial laying of the cornerstones. During this time our country has evolved from an infant nation to a world leader. These changes have had a major impact on the varied roles the White House serves: home and office of the President, location of state ceremonies, national symbol, and as an historic site open to the public.

To explore the White House's many functions, 25 distinguished scholars will participate in the 3-day symposium. This examination of the White House as an institution and mirror of the American experience provides a unique opportunity to better understand its 200 years of history.

The White House: The First 200 Years symposium is being sponsored by the White House Historical Association and the National Park Service and is being supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The symposium will be free and open to the public; advance registration is required. Registration material will be available starting in May 1992, and will be sent upon request by writing to the White House Historical Association, 740 Jackson Place, Washington, D.C. 20503.



Chronology of White House Architecture

- 1791 -Site selected by President George Washington.
- 1792 -James Hoban selected as design competition winner.
-Masonic cornerstones ceremony (Washington not present).
- 1793 -Redesign by Hoban to reduce building's height by one story. Walls above ground floor in brick with stone facings.
- 1798 -Exterior stone covered with whitewash.
- 1800 -Unfinished building occupied by President John Adams.
- 1805-1808 -East and west terraces constructed by Benjamin Latrobe after sketches by President Thomas Jefferson.
- 1814 -President's House burned by British troops.
- 1815 -James Hoban appointed to rebuild.
- 1816 -Exterior walls more deteriorated than expected, necessitating significant rebuilding.
- 1817 -Exterior stone covered with lead paint.
-President James Monroe moved into incomplete building.
- 1824 -South Portico constructed on 1817 foundations.
- 1829-1830 -North Portico constructed on 1817 foundations.
- 1833 -First piped-in water installed, with bathing room in east terrace.
- 1840 -Hot-air furnace installed in ground floor oval room to heat State Floor and second floor hall.
- 1848 -Gas lighting installed.
- 1853 -New water-heated forced-air heating system installed.
-Central plumbing installed in bathing room of private quarters.
- 1857 -New greenhouse built atop west terrace.
- 1866 -Telegraph installed in office suite on second floor.
-East terrace demolished; broader porch added across east side at ground floor level.
- 1879 -Telephone added to telegraph room.
- 1881 -Hydraulic elevator installed (converted to electricity 1897).
- 1882 -Proposal to demolish the White House and build a replica office structure and a similar residence with a connecting hall failed for lack of funding.
- 1889 -Enlargement plan for the White House prepared by Frederick D. Owen for Mrs. Caroline Harrison -- quadrangle with flanking wings and greenhouse. She hoped the project would be completed for the 1892 centenary, but it failed for lack of funding in 1891.

(Over)

THE WHITE HOUSE
THE FIRST 200 YEARS

- 1891 -Electric lighting installed by Edison General Co.
- 1900 -Corps of Engineers plan prepared for enlargement with rotunda extensions, a reduction by Frederick Owen of his plan for Mrs. Harrison.
- 1901 -President Theodore Roosevelt changed the official name to the "White House."
- 1902 -Renovation of White House during Theodore Roosevelt administration by McKim, Mead & White.
 *Much of the interior gatted to wooden framing.
 *State Dining Room enlarged by removal of west staircase.
 *New utilities added.
 *Additional bedrooms and bathrooms constructed on the second floor with the removal of offices.
 *New, but "temporary," Executive Office Building attached to the west terrace; greenhouses removed.
 *East terrace rebuilt as guest entrance.
- 1909 -The West Wing office building doubled in size by addition of southern extension, including the first presidential Oval Office at the center, under direction of Nathan C. Wyeth.
- 1913 -Third floor attic converted by Nathan C. Wyeth into guest bedrooms.
- 1927 -1817 roof structure replaced, creating larger third floor.
- 1930 -Major repairs to the West Wing office building after damage due to fire on Christmas Eve, 1929.
- 1933 -Swimming pool installed in west terrace.
- 1934 -West Wing office building rebuilt and expanded by Eric Gugler - new Oval Office and Cabinet Room in east extension; second floor created behind the balustrade; central air-conditioning installed.
- 1935 -Underground storage and shop facilities added under north grounds; kitchen remodeled.
- 1942 -East Wing office building, including bomb shelter, built by Lorenzo Winslow; movie theater installed in east terrace.
- 1945 -Expansion of West Wing office building designed by Lorenzo Winslow; funds appropriated were rescinded by Congress in 1946 after public uproar.
- 1948 -"Truman Balcony" added by Lorenzo Winslow and William Adams Delano; intense public criticism.
- 1948-1952 -Truman Renovation
 1948 -Structural study. Trumans moved into Blair House.
 1949 -Full renovation funded.
 1950 -Dismantling, leaving exterior walls intact.
 -Two underground levels excavated.
 1951 -Reconstruction to designs by Lorenzo Winslow.
 -New utilities installed, including central air-conditioning.
 1952 -Trumans return to White House.
- 1969 -Swimming pool replaced by press center in west terrace.
 -Porte cochere added to north side of West Wing.
- 1975 -Outdoor swimming pool constructed.
- 1978-1993 -Exterior paint removal and stone restoration project.
- 1984 -Visitor's entrance built south of the East Wing.

DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

In March 1792, Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson drafted a newspaper advertisement for a national architectural competition for the new federal city, calling for designs for the President's House and the Capitol. Jefferson had pushed for such a competition to provide the best possible plans for the city's two principal public buildings. With President George Washington's approval, separate advertisements for the buildings were mailed to newspapers around the country.

WASHINGTON, in the Territory of Columbia.

A PREMIUM OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS, or a MEDAL of that value, at the option of the party, will be given by the Commissioners of the Federal Buildings, to a person who, before the fifteenth day of July next, shall produce to them the most approved PLAN, if adopted by them, for a PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, to be erected in this City...

March 14, 1792

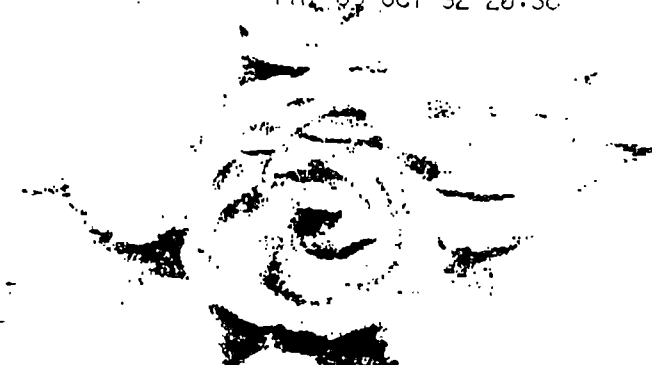
The Commissioners

Gazette of the United States (Philadelphia), June 13, 1792

On July 16, 1792, Washington arrived in Georgetown to examine the submitted designs assembled by the Commissioners. The following morning James Hoban of Charleston was chosen and notified of his success. Hoban selected a gold medal and took the remainder of the \$500 prize in cash. Although his original elevation drawing has been lost, Hoban's floor plan has survived. The extant elevation of the White House by Hoban which dates to 1793 shows the building reduced in size by one story, giving the building the more rectangular shape we know today.

Most of the other entries in the competition were tall, nearly square structures resembling colonial state houses and town halls. Signed drawings exist from two Maryland builders: James Diamond and Jacob Small, the latter submitting four designs. The signed drawing by Hudson Valley, New York poet/scholar Andrew Carshore also survives. Several unsigned drawings are credited to Philip Hart of Baltimore. A drawing suggestive of the Villa Rotondo in Italy and signed only with the anonymous initials "AZ" has been attributed to Thomas Jefferson himself. John Collins of Richmond, Virginia was awarded an unannounced \$150 second prize for his entry.

THE WHITE HOUSE
THE FIRST 200 YEARS



JAMES HOBAN

James Hoban was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland, c.1758. By 1779, he was studying at the architectural drafting division of the drawing school at the Royal Dublin Society, where he won a silver medal in a 1780 competition.

In 1785, Hoban was in Philadelphia, advertising himself as an architect. By 1787, he had moved to Charleston, South Carolina, where he worked in a partnership as a "house carpenter." He was presented to George Washington during the President's visit to Charleston in May 1791. A few days later, Washington was entertained at a dinner in the South Carolina state house in Columbia, a building which Hoban had designed.

After the announcement in 1792 of a design competition for the President's House and Capitol in the new federal city, a Charlestonian provided Hoban with a letter of introduction to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia: "He is a man of Genius and considerable talents in his profession both for design and execution...and came well recommended to America" (May 17, 1792). In June, Hoban was received by Washington in Philadelphia, after which he visited the President's House site and spent several weeks drawing up plans to submit in the design competition. On July 17th, President Washington and the Commissioners selected Hoban's design, for which he received a gold medal and the balance of the \$500 prize in cash. Although the competition announcement called for a brick building, Hoban chose stone to reflect Washington's desires. At that time, Washington also asked for a one-fifth increase in size and greater ornamentation.

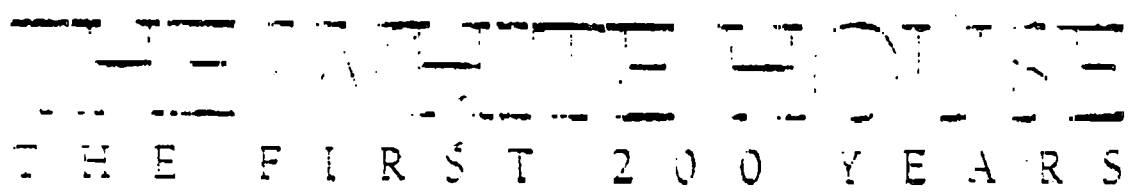
On October 13, 1792, masonic ceremonies were held to lay the cornerstones of the President's House. Although President Washington did not attend, Hoban and others placed an inscribed polished brass plate atop a foundation stone in the southwest corner which was then covered by another stone.

In 1793, Hoban was one of the principals in charge of taking the first census of the Federal City. He also helped organize the Federal Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons, and as Master of the lodge, assisted President Washington in laying the cornerstones of the U.S. Capitol on September 13, 1793. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed superintendent of Capitol construction, a post he held until October 15, 1795 and again from May 26, 1798 until 1802.

By October 22, 1793, President Washington had approved the reduction of the height of the President's House by one story, necessitating some redesigning. At that time, the Commissioners opted to continue the walls in brick with stone facings, and construction continued with the services of seven additional masons brought from Scotland in 1794. When Washington left office in 1797, he stopped to see the President's House during his return to Mount Vernon, an event at which Hoban, as Captain of the Washington Artillery, fired a 16-gun salute for the former President.

In 1798, the exterior of the President's House was whitewashed to seal the Aquia sandstone walls,

(Over)



Laying of the White House Cornerstone

The Commissioners accompanied by a numerous collection of Free Masons, architects and of the Inhabitants of the City of Washington and Georgetown went in procession and laid the first corner stone of the president's house.

Proceedings of the Commissioners, October 13, 1792

The laying of the cornerstone of the President's House was timed to coincide with the second sale of lots in the new capital city. The three Commissioners of the Federal City hoped that the laying of the cornerstone would assure the nation, and especially those investing in the city, that indeed it would be the new capital.

George Washington was in Philadelphia on October 13, 1792 when the Commissioners, James Hoban, master stonemason Collen Williamson, and others marched to the site of the President's House. A brass plate was laid on top of a foundation stone in the southwest corner, on which the cornerstone was then placed. Several attempts to locate the brass plate have been unsuccessful.

The only known detailed report of this event was recorded in a Charleston, S.C. newspaper:

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Philadelphia, to his friend in Charleston, dated October 20, 1792. "On Saturday the 13th inst. the first stone was laid in the south-west corner of the president's house, in the city of Washington, by the Free Masons of Georgetown and its vicinity, who assembled on the occasion. The procession was formed at the Fountain Inn, George-town, in the following order, viz.

1. The Free Masons, in masonic order.
2. The commissioners of the fed. building.
3. Gentlemen of the town & neighborhood.
4. The different artificers, &c.

They proceeded in procession to the president's square. The ceremony was performed by brother Casanova [sic Casanova, Peter], master of the lodge, who delivered an oration well adapted to the occasion. Under the stone was laid a plate of polished brass, with the following inscription:

"This first Stone of the President's House was laid the 13th Day of October, 1792, and in the 17th Year of Independence of the United States of America.

George Washington, President.
Thomas Johnson, Doctor Stewart,
Daniel Carroll, Commissioners.
James Hoban, Architect.
Collen Williamson, Master-Mason.
Vivat Republica.'

After the ceremony was performed they returned, in regular order, to Mr. Suter's Fountain Inn, where an elegant dinner was provided [and 15 enumerated toasts were given]."

The City Gazette and Daily Advertiser
Charleston, S.C., November 15, 1792

T H E F I R S T 2 0 0 Y E A R S

Documentation of the White House

Exterior Documentation Project - In 1988 the White House, in conjunction with the National Capital Region and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service, began a five-year documentation program to record the exterior elevations of the White House Executive Residence as part of the restoration project now underway. HABS is systematically recording the exterior of the structure with photographs and measured drawings that show the previously obscured carved detail and stone graining.

Interior Documentation Project - The American Institute of Architects, in cooperation with the White House Historical Association, is sponsoring the Historic American Buildings Survey to record the interior architecture of the White House Executive Residence with the assistance and guidance of the White House Office of the Curator and the White House Usher's Office. Because of the numerous changes to the residence since its restoration in 1952, HABS is producing a set of measured drawings and large format black-and-white photographs of the interior of the main house as it presently exists. The Interior Documentation Project was started in June of 1990 and is scheduled to continue through October of 1992.

Approximately 850 pages of field notes, 42 in-progress ink-on-film drawings, 2,196 35mm field photographs and 569 large format black-and-white and color photographs have been produced to date.

The results of the exterior and interior documentation projects are now being combined to provide a comprehensive record of the historic main house. The original documentation drawings and photographs will be placed in the HABS collection in the Library of Congress' Prints and Photographs Division. The HABS collection provides to the public architectural documentation on more than 24,000 other historic American structures. For more information on these projects contact HABS at (202) 343-3798.