



THE WHITE HOUSE

The White House

Address

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20500

Site Chosen By

Our first President, George Washington, and Pierre L'Enfant, the city planner for our nation's capital.

Designed By

James Hoban, the winner of the national design competition. His model for the White House resembled the house of the Duke of Leinster in Dublin, Ireland.

Built

1792-1800

Different Names Used for the White House

"President's Palace," the "President's House," the "People's House," and the "Executive Mansion." President Theodore Roosevelt officially gave the White House its current name in 1901.

Historical Facts

- Although President George Washington selected the site and approved the design of the White House, he never lived in it.
- The first residents of the White House were John and Abigail Adams in 1800.
- In 1805, Thomas Jefferson held the first Inaugural "open house."
- The British burned the White House during the War of 1812. It was heavily rebuilt and was opened to the public on New Year's Day 1818.

- President Jefferson opened the White House for public tours and it has been open since then except during wartime.
- In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed an architectural firm to improve and modernize the structure.
- During Harry S. Truman's Administration, the interior of the White House was completely gutted and renovated while the Trumans resided in the Blair House across the street on Pennsylvania Avenue.
- President and Mrs. Bush are honored to live and work in this historic home. They are committed to preserving the dignity of this sacred national symbol.

Fun Facts

- The White House is the only private residence of a Head of State that is open to the public free of charge.
- The White House requires 570 gallons of paint to cover its outside surface.
- The White House has a tennis court, jogging track, swimming pool, movie theatre and bowling lane.
- The White House is able to serve 140 guests at state dinners, and hors d'œuvres to more than 1,000 guests at receptions.
- There are 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, and 6 levels in the historic building. It has 412 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, 8 staircases and 3 elevators.

www.whitehousekids.gov