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White House 200th Anniversary Dinner 11/9/00 [2]

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THE WHITE HOUSE**Dolly Madison Commemorative Silver Dollar Unveiling**[Help](#) [Site Map](#) [Text Only](#)[Go](#)[President & First Lady](#)[Vice President & Mrs. Gore](#)[Record of Progress](#)[The Briefing Room](#)[Gateway to Government](#)[Contacting the White House](#)[White House for Kids](#)[White House History](#)[White House Tours](#)**Dolley Madison Commemorative Silver Dollar Unveiling**

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**  
**The White House - East Room**  
**January 11, 1999**

Welcome to the East Room of the White House. This is a very special day in the history of the White House for all of us who care about this house and who are knowledgeable about its history. We are very grateful this day has arrived. Before I begin my remarks about the event, I want to say a special word of thanks about someone, and that is Master Sergeant John Lang, who is at the piano. This is his last day after 22 years in the Marines, in the Marine Band, and we will miss him. And we are grateful for all of your wonderful contributions to making this house vibrant and as musically entertaining and beautiful as its been. Thank you very much.

I want to thank all of you for being here today to join in celebrating the **Dolley** Madison Commemorative Silver Dollar. This is the first United States coin to feature a First Lady. Now, after doing a little research, I found out that this is not actually the first time the Treasury has honored a First Lady. I don't think any of us were alive at the time, but about 100 years ago, in the late 1890s, the Treasury issued a Silver Certificate of Deposit featuring and celebrating Martha Washington. It was worth a dollar of silver. So today we are proclaiming the first time that the Treasury has issued a national coin and the second time the Treasury has honored a woman who has made such a contribution to our country.

Ever since I was fortunate enough to move into the White House with my husband, I have read everything and listened to every story that I could about all the amazing women who have lived here before me. I admire so many of them. Many of them are really worthy of their own particular commemoration in so many ways, but there is a special feeling that I have about Dolley Madison.

[January 1999](#)[Long-Term Care](#)[Dolly Madison Commemorative Silver Dollar Unveiling](#)[RUSH Presbyterian](#)[Eid Al-Fitr Celebration](#)[Mars Millennium Project](#)[Qualified Teachers in Every Classroom Event](#)[Families Agenda Roundtable](#)[NARAL Anniversary Luncheon](#)[Social Security Teleconference](#)[Foster Care Transitioning](#)[Jo Oberstar Breast Cancer Memorial Lecture](#)[U.S. Conference of Mayors](#)[Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation Awards](#)[Fifth Millennium Evening: Meaning of the Millennium](#)

Her strength, her character, her skill, her sheer energy really set her apart. And on this, the 150th anniversary of her death, I cannot think of a better way to honor her remarkable life and her many contributions to our country. She will now take her rightful place among other American leaders who have graced commemorative coins, such as Robert Kennedy, Jackie Robinson, and George Washington. And with each coin bought, 10 percent of the proceeds will help preserve Montpelier, her beloved home, and with it, the pivotal chapter she and her husband co-wrote in our nation's history. Because certainly Dolley Madison was important, not only in her husband's administration, but in President Jefferson's administration.

I want to thank everyone here who has worked so hard to make this possible: Deputy Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and the entire United States Mint, especially James Ferrell and Thomas Rogers, whose wonderful sculpting and engraving have brought the image of Dolley Madison and Montpelier to life. I also want to thank Michael Kowalski, Fernanda Kellogg, and the entire Tiffany & Co. family, who donated the extraordinary design for the coin. For generations, Tiffany has created a style that expresses our national identity. In particular, I want to single out and thank Tiffany for the many contributions they have made to the White House over many decades, and now for helping to create a coin that will celebrate and safeguard an important part of our national heritage.

This past July, I had the opportunity to visit the beautiful grounds of Montpelier. Dolley Madison was rightfully proud of this magnificent home. Along with 3,000 others, we were there to celebrate the opening of the exhibit "Discovering Madison," and to recognize the people who are working to preserve Montpelier and pass it and its lessons on to every generation. I know many of them are here today. I especially want to thank Kathy Mullins, the executive director of Montpelier, and Bill Lewis, the chairman of the Montpelier Foundation. I also see Robert Stanton, the director of our National Park Service, has joined us, and I want to thank him as well.

We are fortunate to be joined by five descendants of Dolley and James Madison, and I would like to ask the Madisons' descendants to stand so that we can recognize them as well [applause]. I said at Montpelier and I repeat today, I think that James and Dolley Madison have not been given the public recognition and credit they are both due for what they did, both to create our country -- the founding documents -- and then to implement the principles

of democracy. I am very grateful to them and grateful for this opportunity to thank them and their descendants in public.

I also would like to recognize Mary Regula, the founder and president of the First Ladies' Library. The Library is a special place to me, and I have worked with Mary over several years now. It is doing a lot to bring the contributions of America's first ladies to public attention.

There are members of Congress who could not be with us today that I also want to thank for their work on the legislation that made creating this coin possible: Senator Robb, Senator Warner, Congressman Bliley and Congressman Castle.

None of us would be here, I believe, had it not been for the vision, commitment, and leadership of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The leader of the National Trust, Dick Moe, and some of his staff members are here with us today. I am delighted that the Trust is the White House's private sector partner in our Millennium Program to "Save America's Treasures." The Trust challenges every American every day to preserve the past as a living reminder of who we are and where we want to go. That is, in many ways, the purpose behind this celebration. And it is certainly the driving idea behind the White House Millennium Council that the President and I have established.

Most of us, if you are like me, are having a hard time getting used to writing the numbers 1999 and have been doing a lot of changing eights into nines in the last week or so. It is a very pertinent reminder that we are about to see the turn of a century. What that means to us, of course, is as varied as we are as a people. The President and I thought it would be a time when we could reflect on and celebrate what defines us as a nation. As we are constantly reminding ourselves, we are "e pluribus unum" -- out of many, we are one. That means we are one nation, under God. We share the same experiences, hopes, and values despite our differences, and we have gifts that we can give as Americans because of the gifts that previous generations of Americans have given to us.

The overall theme for the White House Millennium activities is "Honor the past, imagine the future." One of the ways we are trying to do just that is through the public-private partnership to Save America's Treasures. Certainly today we are focusing on one of the most important people in our history. That is, however, not the only focus of our

celebration to Save America's Treasures. We think that in every community -- indeed, in nearly every family -- there are artifacts, there are documents, there are memories that deserve to be saved for the future. Certainly in every community there are sites, places, and artifacts that are irreplaceable. If we lose them, we begin to lose our history, and we begin to lose our collective memory. We will lose, I believe, our bearings in the present and our compass to the future.

In addition to Montpelier, I have been privileged to visit many other sites of many Americans who have made real contributions -- from Thomas Edison's laboratory where he invented the motion picture camera, to the home of Harriet Tubman whose courage has inspired all lovers of freedom. I was recently at the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, whose poetry reflects the birth of our republic and our enduring ideals. What we want to do with "Save America's Treasures" -- with the Trust and the White House, in partnership with many members of the public and private sector -- is to challenge all communities and citizens to find ways that they could tell our nation's story. That is exactly what has happened with the Dolley Madison Commemorative Silver Dollar. Children can look at this coin and see the face of Dolley Madison and understand how so many people have contributed to our country's greatness. I hope they will imagine Dolley Madison, not only as a wonderful hostess, which indeed she was within the walls of this building, but as a skilled diplomat who could bring people together and help them work on behalf of common causes. I hope they will see her also as someone who understood the importance of saving our history even when we were a very young nation, so that future generations will appreciate what they, too, must do to save our history.

I have told the story many times -- and the reason we are here in the East Room, off on one side with the Gilbert Stuart behind us here -- is because it is one of my favorite stories about what has happened in this house. Obviously there have been many, many important and difficult and challenging times for the people who have lived here during our history. We are about to, in the year 2000, celebrate the 200th anniversary of the White House being inhabited. We would not have the White House as we know it today, and we would not have the few things that remain from the fire started by the British troops in 1814 during the war of 1812, were it not for Dolley Madison. President Madison, as you will recall, was our last Commander-in-Chief who actually was in the field leading troops against



the British forces. Mrs. Madison was here in the house with the staff and a few close advisors, and she had prepared a wonderful meal for her husband and his officers to enjoy when they returned to the White House. But then her husband sent word that the British had broken through the lines and they were on their way to Washington. That meant that Mrs. Madison had to flee. In a letter she wrote to her sister at the time this was all going on, she described being within earshot of the cannons -- she could actually hear them. But she still refused to leave until she had collected what she considered the most important items in the house. I often pose the question to audiences: "What were they?" Well, they were not the account books, although they kept very good account books in those days at the White House. They were other things, and the most important was this Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington. She attempted to get it out of the frame and when she could not, she had to break the frame and remove the canvas. When she had the portrait safely tucked away, she left, just in time.

When the British officers arrived, they sat down, ate the meal Mrs. Madison had prepared, and then burned the house to the ground. In the nearly 200 years since then, the White House has been refurbished and the outside repainted, because when it was rebuilt after this fire, it was painted white as it had been since its first coat of whitewash in 1798. You can still see some of the burn marks on a portion of the north facade west of the North Portico and on the south facade near the doorway to the Truman Balcony. We have left them unpainted to remind us of the vigilance it takes to safeguard this house and all it represents, and also to remind us of what happened here before.

The Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington still hangs proudly in this room today, thanks to Dolley Madison. I would like to point out that in this wonderful Journal of the White House Historical Association, Fall 1998, there is an article by William Seale, one of the most faithful historical reporters on the White House, and it talks specifically about the fire in this wonderful quote: "I must leave this house or the retreating army will make me a prisoner in it." That is one of the things that she knew would happen to her if she was not able to escape. Whether she was saving this portrait or transcribing her husband's letters and essays when he was stricken with rheumatism, she understood that none of us owns our past, but we are all the caretakers of our collective past and memory.

Because of this coin and the role it will play in

saving Montpelier, more and more people will be able to travel to that very special place to learn about the contributions made by James and Dolley Madison. They will walk through the grounds and imagine James Madison's thoughts and writings that gave life to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Virginia Resolution. And they will also think about Dolley Madison.

When Zachary Taylor eulogized Dolley Madison 150 years ago, he said, "She will never be forgotten because she was truly our first lady for a half-century." She is one of our first ladies for all time, and I thank you for helping to make that possible.

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## History of the White House Easter Egg Roll

The original site of the Easter Monday Egg Roll was the grounds of the United States Capitol. By the mid 1870s, the egg rolling activities on the West Terraces had gained notoriety as the children turned the Capitol grounds into their Easter Monday playground. The first egg rolls, largely family affairs, seem to have been held during the administration of President Andrew Johnson. Youngsters of the President's family dyed eggs on Sunday for the Monday rolling, which the First Lady would watch from the South Portico. A family member has attested to hearing the stories of such activity from Andrew Johnson Patterson, the President's grandson, who lived at the White House while his mother served as White House hostess on behalf of her invalid mother, First Lady Eliza Johnson. Although small groups of egg rollers were reported on the White House grounds under the presidency of General Ulysses S. Grant, the majority of egg rolling activity and all day picnics took place at the Capitol. The workers and tourists watched in fascination as the children rolled both their hard boiled eggs and themselves down the lush green hills.

The egg roll activity of 1876 took its toll on the grounds, a fact that did not go unnoticed by members of Congress. With an already inadequate budget to complete the landscaping and maintenance of the grounds, Congress passed a law forbidding the Capitol grounds to be used as a children's playground. The law was to be enforced in 1877. But that Easter Monday rain poured down, canceling any outdoor activities sending the egg rollers indoors to play.

On Easter Saturday of 1878, a small announcement in the local press informed the egg rollers the new law would be enforced. President Rutherford B. Hayes, taking his daily walk, was approached by a number of young egg rollers who inquired about the possibilities of egg rolling on the South Lawn of the White House.

Unfamiliar with the activity [his first Easter Monday as President had been rained out the proceeding year] President Hayes, upon his return to the White House, inquired amongst his staff who briefed the attentive Chief Executive. The smiling President issued an official



order that should any children arrive to egg roll on Easter Monday, they were to be allowed to do so.

That Monday, as children were being turned away from the Capitol grounds, word quickly spread to go to the White House!

President Hayes and his wife, Lucy, officially opened the White House grounds to the children of the area for egg rolling that Easter Monday. Successive Presidents continued the tradition, and the event has been held on the South Lawn ever since. The event has been canceled on occasion only because of poor weather conditions and during World War I and World War II. During the war years egg rollers were spotted on the grounds surrounding the Washington Monument, at the National Zoo, and even returning to the grounds surrounding the Capitol!

By the late 1800s such games as "Egg Picking," "Egg Ball," "Toss and Catch," and "Egg Croquet" were popular Easter Monday activities. The children attending the event take part in many newer activities, but rolling a hard-boiled egg across the lawn is still a highlight of the day. Presidents and First Ladies have personally greeted the egg rollers as have members of the Cabinet, athletes, musicians, celebrities from film, television, and theater and the official White House Easter Bunny. At the end of the day as egg rollers say goodbye, each receives a special presidential wooden egg complete with the signatures of the President and the First Lady and departs with fond memories of this happy tradition at the White House.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

ADDRESS: 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

DIMENSIONS: 168 X 85.5 X 60 SQ FT: 13,440/FLOOR (5)  
E/W N/S UP TOTAL: 67,200 SQ FT. APPROX.

DESIGNED BY: JAMES HOBAN, IRISH BORN ARCHITECT

CORNERSTONE LAID: OCTOBER 13, 1792

FIRST OCCUPIED: NOV. 1, 1800 BY: PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS

CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL: SANDSTONE FROM AQUIA CREEK, VIRGINIA  
BRICK MADE ON SITE.

COST: \$232,371.83

BURNED: AUG. 24, 1814 BY BRITISH TROOPS.

THE FIRE DESTROYED THE INTERIOR BUT LEFT THE  
EXTERIOR WALLS STANDING BUT BADLY DAMAGED.

REBUILT: 1815 TO 1817 (MONROES RETURNED SEPT. 1817)

COST: \$236,490.00

RENOVATED: 1902 BY MCKIM, MEAD & WHITE OF NYC (T. ROOSEVELT)

COST: \$343,945.00

RENOVATED: DEC. 7, 1949 TO MAR 27, 1952 BY ARMY CORPS OF  
ENGINEERS (TRUMAN)

COST: \$5,761,000.00 (VACATED BY THE TRUMANS 11/48)

ROOF CONSTRUCTION: SLATE

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION:

|                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5 MAJOR FLOORS                     | APPROX. 570 GAL TO PAINT |
| 3 MEZZANINES                       | EXTERIOR WALLS           |
| 132 ROOMS (34 BATHROOM/LAVATORIES) |                          |
| 28 FIREPLACES                      |                          |
| 116 WINDOWS                        |                          |
| 412 DOORS                          |                          |
| 12 CHIMNEYS                        |                          |
| 3 ELEVATORS                        |                          |
| 2 DUMBWAITERS                      |                          |
| 2 SIDEWALK LIFTS                   |                          |
| 7 STAIRCASES                       |                          |

Bedrooms  
/// /// ///  
(13)

elevator

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

### EAST ROOM

The East Room, scene of many historic White House events, was designated by architect, James Hoban, as the "Public Audience Room." It normally contains little furniture and traditionally is used for large gatherings, such as dances, after dinner entertainment, concerts, weddings, funerals, award presentations, press conferences, and bill signing ceremonies.

#### History:

- 1800 - When John and Abigail Adams moved into the White House, this room was incomplete. The laundry was hung in this room.
- 1801 - Thomas Jefferson had the south end of the room partitioned into two rooms to create a bedroom and an office for his secretary, Meriwether Lewis, later co-leader of the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- 1829 - Room first fully decorated under Andrew Jackson.
- 1861 - During the Civil War, Union troops quartered in this room for a time.
- 1873 - Under Ulysses S. Grant, room decorated in Victorian style referred to as "Steamboat Gothic."
- 1902 - Under Theodore Roosevelt, room redecorated by McKim, Mead and White in classical revival style.
- 1952 - Paneling and ceiling modified during the Truman Renovation.

#### State Occasions:

- February 24, 1902 - Dinner honoring Prince Henry of Prussia (Theodore Roosevelt Administration)
- April 22, 1980 - Luncheon honoring King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola of Belgium (Jimmy Carter Administration)
- October 4, 1994 - Dinner honoring President Nelson Mandela of South Africa (Bill Clinton Administration)

### Weddings:

Presidential daughters -

- Elizabeth Tyler, 1842
- Nellie Grant, 1874
- Alice Roosevelt, 1906
- Jessie Wilson, 1913
- Lynda Johnson, 1967

### Lying in State:

Seven of eight presidents who died in office have lain in state in the East Room. President James A. Garfield, 1881, was the exception.

- William Henry Harrison, 1841
- Zachary Taylor, 1850
- Abraham Lincoln, 1865
- William McKinley, 1901
- Warren G. Harding, 1923
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1945
- John F. Kennedy, 1963

Other funerals included three first ladies -

- Letitia Christian Tyler, 1842
- Caroline Lavinia Scott Harrison, 1892
- Ellen Louise Axson Wilson, 1914

### Also of Interest:

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower takes oath of office to begin his second term on Sunday, January 20, 1957. Inauguration at U.S. Capitol held on Monday, January 21.
- President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, July 2, 1964.
- Gerald R. Ford is sworn in as President, August 9, 1974.
- Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt signed the Camp David accords, establishing a framework for peace in the Middle East, September 17, 1978.



## Significant Dates

July 11, 1798: President John Adams signed into law an Act of Congress establishing the United States Marine Band.

August 21, 1800: The Marine Band presented its first public concert in Washington "on a hill overlooking the Potomac" (the future site of the Naval Hospital).

January 1, 1801: The band made its White House debut at a New Year's reception given by President John Adams.

March 4, 1801: The Marine Band performed for Thomas Jefferson's inauguration. He gave the Marine Band the title "The President's Own." Since Jefferson's time the band has played at every Presidential inauguration.

July 4, 1801: President Jefferson reviewed the Marine Corps, led by their band, on the White House grounds in the newly-founded Capital City. This was the first time in the history of the nation the Commander-in-Chief reviewed a body of regular troops at his residence in Washington.

February 10, 1804: The Marine Band often played in the Hall of Congress on Sunday. Their glittering instruments and brilliant uniforms made a dazzling appearance. On this occasion they performed "Denmark." The press later described the music as excellent and added that the band had learned the tune in only two days.

January 1816: The Marine Band performed at a dinner honoring Navy heroes given by the Pennsylvania members of Congress and their friends. News accounts reported, "The dinner was followed by many toasts, accompanied by highly patriotic songs and music by the Marine Band." The words of one hastily written song were sung to the tune of "To Anacreon in Heaven," the melody of which later became our National Anthem.

July 11, 1825: On Lafayette's birthday, as the Marine Band stood by to play "La Marseillaise," President John Quincy Adams arose and proposed the first toast ever offered at dinner in the White House. Lafayette's responding toast was to the "Fourth of July" – birthday of Liberty in both hemispheres – an occasion for another appropriate air by the Marine Band.

March 4, 1829: The Marine Band performed at the inauguration of President Andrew Jackson. These were the first inaugural ceremonies to be held on the Capitol steps.

April 4, 1841: While Governor of the Indiana Territory, William Henry Harrison defeated the Indians at the Tippecanoe River. His victory gave birth to the Presidential campaign slogan, "Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too!" Elected President, Harrison died one

month after his inauguration. The Marine Band led a funeral cortege that extended for two miles along the streets of the nation's Capital.

January 7, 1845: President John Tyler began public concerts by the Marine Band on the White House grounds every Saturday afternoon, a custom which continued for many years.

July 4, 1848: The Marine Band played for the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Monument. Three persons who knew George Washington attended the ceremonies: Dolly Madison, Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, and George Washington Parke Custis, adopted grandson of George Washington. A wagon hauling the 24,500-pound stone of Maryland marble broke through a bridge over the city canal on the way to the site south of the White House. (The canal ran the course of what is now Constitution Avenue.) Civilian workers at the Navy Yard volunteered to spend their lunch hour rescuing the stone, and the Marine Band urged them on with spirited melodies.

November 19, 1863: During the Civil War, the band continued its outdoor concerts in Lafayette Park across from the White House. The band was present when Lincoln made his Gettysburg Address. A later generation of the Marine Band returned to Gettysburg in 1938 when veterans of the Union and Confederate Armies met to commemorate the 75th anniversary of that historic battle. In 1988, the band performed during a reenactment of the Gettysburg Address in observance of the 125th anniversary of the event.

April 14, 1865: Shortly after he took office, President Andrew Johnson reviewed General Hancock's veteran Union troops prior to their disbandment after the War between the States. Marching at the head of the parade, the Marine Band led the troops along Pennsylvania Avenue and stopped to play in front of the reviewing stand.

April 1, 1891: The Marine Band began its first concert tour under the direction of John Philip Sousa. Marine Band concert tours have continued to this day except for brief periods during time of war.

February 17, 1906: One of the most brilliant social events to be held at the White House was the wedding of Alice Roosevelt, daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt. This was the 12th wedding in the Presidential mansion – more than a thousand guests saw the bride walk to the altar on the arm of her illustrious father, to the strains of a wedding march played by the Marine Band.

August 21, 1932: The band performed at the Central Canadian Exposition in Ottawa. This was the first time the Marine Band performed outside the United States.

April 1949: Winston Churchill addressed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Mid-Century Convocation in Boston. As he was about to leave the platform following his address, Churchill turned to the audience and declared that he would like to "ask one favor." He requested that the Marine Band play one more number – "The

Marines' Hymn," and to the delight of the audience and the bandmen, Winston Churchill sang all the words to each verse.

November 25, 1963: At the request of Mrs. Kennedy, the Marine Band led the funeral procession of President John F. Kennedy.

October 27, 1967: The Marine Band performed during the dedication of Theodore Roosevelt Island. President Lyndon B. Johnson and Theodore Roosevelt's daughter, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, attended the ceremony.

October 1, 1970: President Richard M. Nixon was the first U.S. President to visit Yugoslavia. On this occasion he brought along a 13-piece orchestra from the Marine Band to provide music during a dinner and reception he gave for Yugoslavian Premier Josip Broz Tito in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. This marked the first time in which members of the Marine Band played outside the United States for a State function. After the reception, Nixon shook hands with each of the musicians and thanked them for their performance on this historic occasion.

July 2, 1974: A five-piece string orchestra from the Marine Band accompanied President Nixon to Russia. The orchestra performed traditional music during a dinner hosted by the President in Moscow.

January 21, 1985: For the first time in history, the swearing-in ceremony of the President was moved indoors because of the severe cold weather. The Marine Band trimmed its ranks from 100 to 45 so that all the participants could gather in the Capitol Rotunda to witness President Reagan's swearing-in. The Constitution requires that the President be sworn in on January 20, but tradition has it that when the swearing-in ceremony is on a Sunday, the ceremony is repeated on the 21st for the public.

November 26, 1985: The Marine Band performed its first overseas concert in Rotterdam, Netherlands. The Royal Netherlands Marine Corps invited the Marine Band to perform a joint concert with the Marine Band of the Royal Netherlands Navy in Rotterdam's de Doelen Concert Hall in celebration of their 320th birthday. In attendance were Princess Margriet, Queen Beatrix' sister, and General and Mrs. Paul X. Kelley, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

July 4-5, 1986: The Marine Band performed for the 100th birthday celebration of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. The Fourth of July festivities included honors for President and Mrs. Reagan, the Parade of Tall Ships – during which the band played musical selections from each country participating, performed the music used during the fireworks display, and provided music during the televised International Classical Concert in Central Park. The Marine Band participated in the original dedication of the Statue of Liberty in 1886, which is captured in a painting by Edward Moran entitled, "The Unveiling of the Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World."

November 11-14, 1986: The Marine Band traveled to Dublin, Ireland for its second

overseas concert in Marine Band history. United States Ambassador to Ireland, Margaret Heckler, arranged for a gala performance at Dublin's National Concert Hall. The band performed Irish and American music during the concert and several encore pieces including "Irish Washerwoman," "Finnegan's Wake," and "Semper Fidelis."

The

concert was attended by the President of Ireland, Patrick Hillary, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Bertie Ahern, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General P.X. Kelley and his wife.

June 29-July 5, 1989: The Marine Band performed as the featured concert band during the 11th International Band Music Festival in Hamar, Norway. In addition to the two concerts in Hamar, the band also participated in a ceremony in Oslo honoring America's July Fourth Independence Day.

February 6-23, 1990: As part of a historic U.S.-Soviet Armed Forces Band Exchange, the Marine Band made an 18-day concert tour of the Soviet Union, performing in the cities of Moscow, Kiev, L'vov, Minsk and Leningrad. The exchange was one of a number of activities aimed at promoting better understanding between the two nations. This was the first time a U.S. military band had made a concert tour of the USSR.

February 15-22, 1992: The Marine Band performed at Royal Albert Hall in London, England, in a joint concert with The Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines. General and Mrs. Carl E. Mundy and Lt General and Mrs Beverly attended the concert, which was part of the Mountbatten Festival of Music.

May 24, 1998: The Marine Band was inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame in Cincinnati, OH. The band was the only organization to be included among the inaugural class of distinguished composers, musicians, and educators.

July 10, 1998: President and Mrs. William Jefferson Clinton hosted a command performance and reception on the White House South Lawn to celebrate the Marine Band's Bicentennial.

July 11, 1998: "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band marked 200 years as an integral part of our nation's cultural heritage with a gala performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington. Guests of honor included the First Family, Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton, and concert host Marine Corps Commandant General Charles C. Krulak.



# Marine Band

The United States Marine Band has been part of the events that have shaped our national heritage for more than two centuries. Its omnipresent role in events of national importance has made it part of the fabric of American life.

Established by an Act of Congress in 1798, the Marine Band is America's oldest professional musical organization. Its primary mission is unique: to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

President John Adams invited the Marine Band to make its White House debut in the unfinished Executive Mansion on New Year's Day 1801. In March of that year, the band performed for the inaugural of Thomas Jefferson and has performed for every Presidential inaugural since that time. In Jefferson, the band found its most visionary advocate and friend. An accomplished musician himself, Jefferson recognized the unique relationship between the band and the Chief Executive by giving the Marine Band the title, "The President's Own."

Whether performing for South Lawn arrival ceremonies, State Dinners, or receptions, Marine Band musicians appear at the White House more than 200 times each year. These performances range from a solo harpist or chamber orchestra to a dance band or full concert band, making versatility an important requirement for band members. Additionally, the band participates in more than 500 public and official performances annually, including concerts and ceremonies throughout the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Each fall, the band travels through a region of the United States during its concert tour, a century-old tradition started by the band's legendary 17th Director John Philip Sousa.

As Director from 1880-1892, Sousa brought "The President's Own" to unprecedented levels of excellence and shaped the band into a world-famous musical organization. During his tenure, the band was one of the first musical ensembles to make sound recordings. Sousa also began to write the marches that earned him the title "The March King."

"The President's Own" continues to maintain Sousa's standard of excellence. Marine Band musicians are selected at auditions much like those of major symphony orchestras. They enlist in the Marine Corps for duty with the Marine Band only. Most current members are graduates of our nation's most prestigious music schools, often holding advanced degrees in music. More than 90 percent serve with the Marine Band for 20 or more years.

On July 11, 1998, the Marine Band celebrated its 200th Anniversary with a gala concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington attended by the President and First Lady. Also during 1998, the Marine Band became the only organization to be inducted in the inaugural class of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame in Cincinnati. As the Marine Band enters its third century, it

continues a tradition of excellence that earned it the title, "The President's Own."  
Whether in White House performances, public concerts, or national tours, the music of  
the Marine Band is the music of America.



## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### Memorandum

October 6, 2000

To: Capricia Marshall, Deputy Assistant to the President and Social Secretary  
 Cc: Gary Walters, Hugh Sidey, Neil Horstman, Maria Downs  
 Fr: John Riley, Director of Education and Scholarship Programs  
 Re: John Adams Arrives at the White House, November 1, 2000

This is to provide a summary of our discussion on October 5 of the re-enactment of President Adams's arrival at the White House scheduled for November 1.

- The White House Historical Association has secured the participation of historian David McCullough, an actor to portray John Adams, and a carriage and horses to transport "Adams" up the south drive to the south front. Tentative arrival to be at noon, which could be adjusted if the President's schedule required.
- The carriage would enter at one of the south gates and travel up the south drive. Fife and drum (preferably the U.S. Army's Old Guard Fife and Drum) would march on the south lawn. Upon Adams's disembarking at the south front, the Marine Band would announce the arrival of President Clinton as well as Adams with "Hail to the Chief." President Clinton and Adams would ascend to the Blue Room balcony. From the balcony President Clinton would welcome Adams in brief remarks; Adams would make a brief response; David McCullough (joining the others on the Blue Room balcony) would then make remarks on the historical aspects of the first president to occupy the White House.
- The press would cover the event.
- The audience would consist of those visitors on the public tour who are asked if they would like to remain for the ceremony. We also discussed having some young students represented (grades 4-6 probably about right) that would be invited. The Association could assist, if needed, finding several classes and we would provide instructional materials for the students prior to their arrival so they can better appreciate the historical significance of the anniversary event. Staff/passholders were also discussed as invitees. Inclement weather plan would be to hold the ceremony in the East Room. [Would the press still cover the carriage arrival and initial greeting by President Clinton before they entered the White House?] If invited guests prove to be too large a crowd for the East Room then the public tour visitors would simply not be alerted to the program. [In case of bad weather, how soon could the East Room be

cleared of public tour visitors – would we shift program to a bit later to accommodate this or do we just divert the public tour?]

- Other dignitaries to be invited might include Senators Kennedy and Kerry of Massachusetts and leadership from the House (MA) and the Mayor of Washington, D.C. (this is also the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city's role as U.S. capital).
- Refreshments for the audience would be provided on the south lawn prior to the arrival.





## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### White House Statistics

- ❖ The White House is 168 feet (51.2 meters) long.
- ❖ The White House is 85 feet 6 inches (26.1 meters) wide without porticoes and 152 feet wide with porticoes.
- ❖ The overall height of the White House (to the top of the roof) is 70 feet on the south and 60 feet 4 inches on the north.
- ❖ The façade (grade of lawn to parapet) is 60 feet on the south (lawn at 54 feet above sea level) and 50 feet 4 inches on the north.
- ❖ The White House fence encloses 18 acres of land.
- ❖ The White House has 132 rooms, including 16 family-guest rooms, one main kitchen, one diet kitchen, one family kitchen, and 31 bathrooms.
  - ❖ On the Ground floor, the White House has (excluding storage rooms) 10 rooms, one main corridor, and six restrooms.
  - ❖ On the State floor, there are eight rooms, one main corridor, and one entrance hall.
  - ❖ On the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, there are 16 rooms, one main corridor, six bathrooms, and one restroom.
  - ❖ On the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, there are 20 rooms, one main corridor, and nine bathrooms.

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## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### White House "Firsts"

- ❖ President Calvin Coolidge was the first chief executive to make a radio broadcast from the White House in 1925.
- ❖ President Grover Cleveland was the only president to be married in a White House ceremony. He married 21-year old Frances Folsom, the daughter of a former law partner, in 1886.
- ❖ President William Howard Taft was the first president to have an official White House automobile.
- ❖ President Benjamin Harrison brought the first Christmas tree inside the White House in 1889.
- ❖ President Thomas Jefferson's grandson was the first child born in the White House.
- ❖ President John Adams was the first president to occupy the White House in 1800. One of his first additions was a vegetable garden.
- ❖ In 1825, President John Quincy Adams developed the first flower garden on the White House grounds and planted ornamental trees.
- ❖ President Andrew Jackson had the first bathtub built in, although it wasn't until 17 years later in 1850 that hot and cold running water were provided.
- ❖ The first telephone, with the phone number of simply "1," was installed for President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1879.
- ❖ The tradition of planting commemorative trees to represent each president and state begins in 1878 as hundreds of trees are planted under President Rutherford B. Hayes.
- ❖ President Harry Truman delivers the first presidential address broadcast from the White House on October 5, 1947.

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## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**For Immediate Release  
October 18, 2000**

**Contact: Ashley Vanarsdall (202) 585-2130**

### **For 200 Years, the White House Has Served As America's Symbol of Democracy**

WASHINGTON – The White House, the most recognized building in America and a symbol of democracy around the world, celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Nov. 1, 2000, just six days before the presidential election.

“As the seat of the presidency – and temporary home of presidents – the White House is the symbol of our democratic transition from one administration to the next,” said Neil W. Horstman, executive vice president of the White House Historical Association.

“There is no more enduring emblem of America’s proud past – and the hopes for its future – than the White House,” he added.

The White House is the only building in the world that serves as both home, office and museum for a leader and a nation.

President John Adams arrived by carriage at the White House, then known as the President’s House, at 1 p.m. on Nov. 1, 1800. As the nation’s second president and first occupant of the house, Adams walked into a home still unfinished. About half of the rooms had no plaster, only one of three staircases was built, and scaffolds still lay against basement walls.

“The day John Adams moved in marked the beginning of a remarkable unbroken chain covering 200 years, during which every U.S. President except for George Washington has lived and worked at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,” Horstman said. “Looking back over those years, Americans can track the evolution of their nation, their history, institutions, and culture.”

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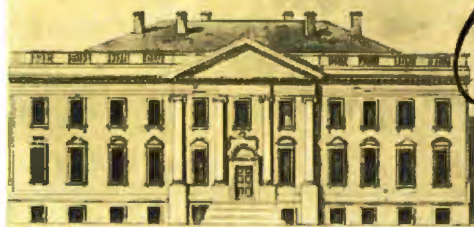
In conjunction with the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the White House Historical Association is coordinating a number of events. They include:

- A presentation ceremony for a new commemorative White House postage stamp on Oct. 18.
- A reception on Oct. 25 to open a decorative arts exhibition, *Designing for Democracy—Furnishings from the President's House*, and a book signing for *The White House: Its Furnishings and First Families* by Betty C. Monkman, the White House Curator.
- A re-enactment of the arrival of President John Adams on Nov. 1 at the White House.
- A symposium with White House historians and scholars on Nov. 14, 15 and 16.

The White House Historical Association, chartered in 1961, is a nonprofit historical and educational association that plays a vital role in preserving the White House and recording its unique history. It has published and distributed more than 8 million books, as well as videos and other educational materials. The association also arranges lectures, exhibits and other outreach programs. The Web site is [www.whitehousehistory.org](http://www.whitehousehistory.org).

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ENGRAVING, 1807

# THE White House

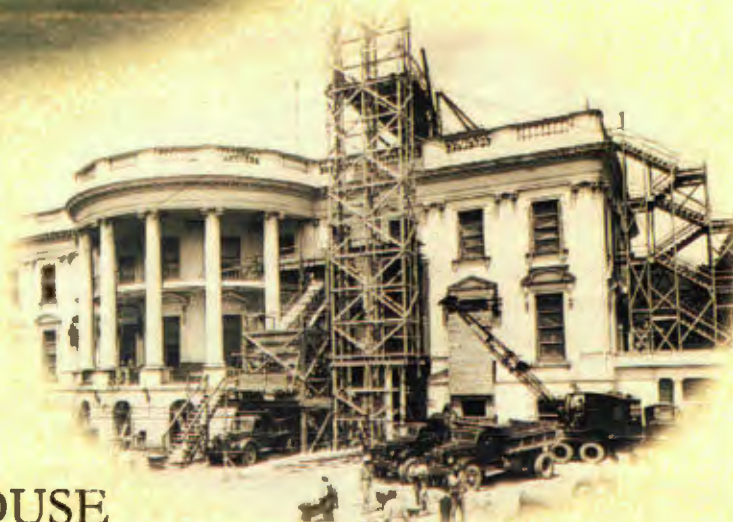
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



OLD CONSERVATORY, c. 1890

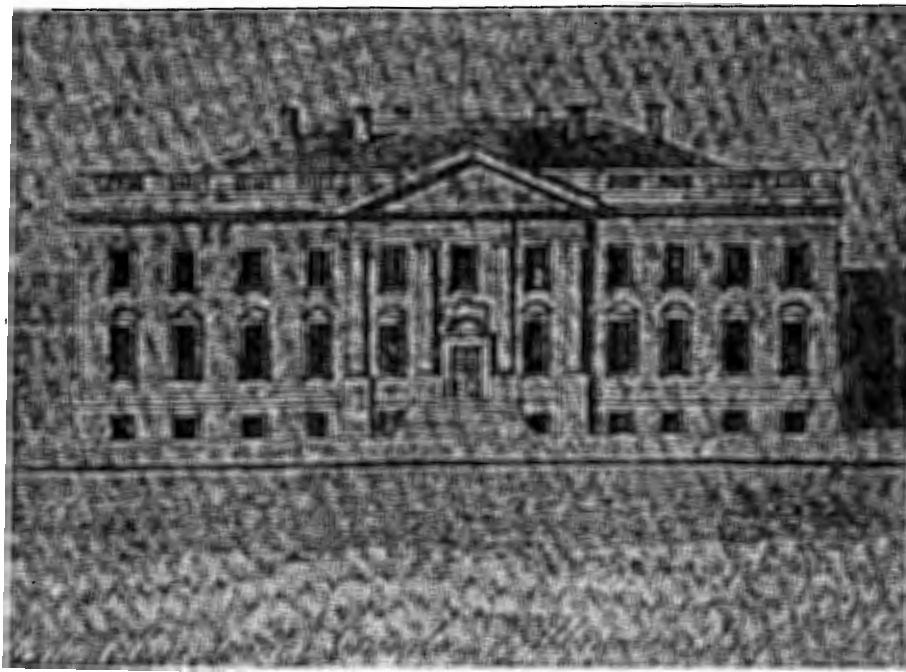


WEST WING, 1902



TRUMAN RENOVATION,  
1948-1952

THE WHITE HOUSE  
1800-2000



# ACTION CENTRAL

For 200 years the White House has weathered everything from fire to sheep—and some big egos

By HUGH SIDNEY

**T**HE WHITE HOUSE WILL CELEBRATE its 200th birthday on Nov. 1, and right now the White House Historical Association is searching for someone round enough to play the role of President John Adams, the first President to take up residence there. All he has to do is climb into an antique carriage on Pennsylvania Avenue around 1 p.m. that day and make his way to the White House to commemorate the fateful first entry, which at the time was barely noted. The original Adams had some doubts about the place even before he left Philadelphia; the mansion was too big and ostentatious for his ascetic New England soul, it was located by a smelly swamp—and it wasn't even finished. Nevertheless, when he got there he accepted what some called "Washington's palace," went in to do a little work, had supper and then, taking a candle, went up to bed—no doubt still wondering at the raw loneliness of that new building.

He never moved out, nor did any of his successors. The White House is now the most renowned and important building in the world and one of half a dozen symbols

of liberty instantly recognized around this planet. An odd creature—part home and office, part museum—it may be one reason the U.S. has been so successful. President George Bush, a dedicated family man, says when things got tense during crisis meetings in the Cabinet Room or the Oval Office, he could always glance out the windows over the South Lawn and see his grandchildren playing with his dogs or chief gardener Irv Williams digging in the flower beds or perhaps a staff member warming up on the horseshoe pits that Bush had had installed. "It made you realize what being President was all about," insists Bush.

On Nov. 1, the faux Adams will be piped into the White House by the Army's fife and drums. Historian David McCullough, who is finishing a book on the difficult relationship between Adams and Thomas Jefferson, will deliver a brief address on the meaning of the moment. If President Bill Clinton is not out campaigning, he will add remarks for any and all citizens who want to stop by and listen from the front lawn and Lafayette Park, just like they did two centuries ago.

Like so many other things in that time,

WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

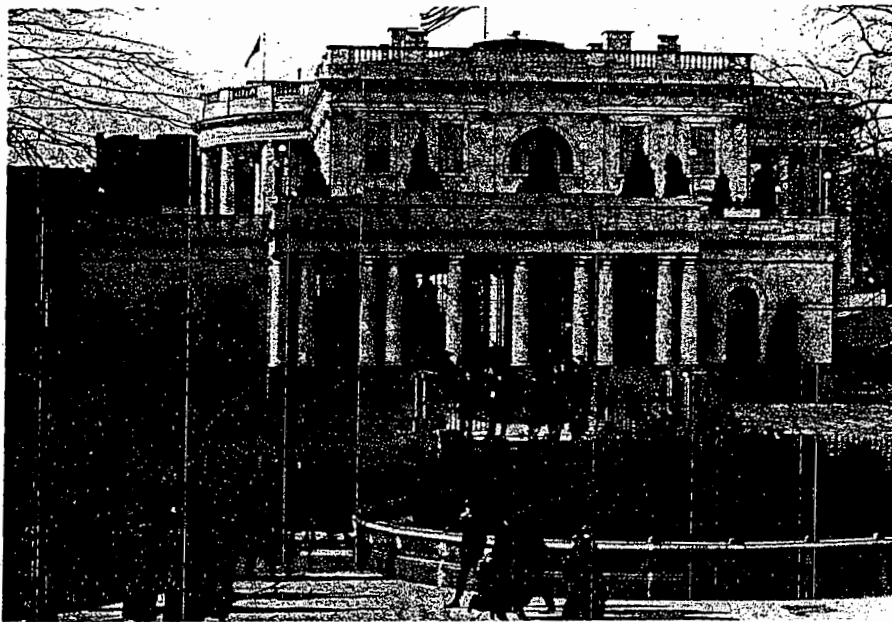
**1807** A signed rendering of the facade by B.H. Latrobe, one of the architects

the White House came about because of the determination of George Washington. He never got to live there, but he made certain that James Hoban's design took shape. It was strongly hinted that Washington practiced favoritism in getting the real estate and construction materials, but he brushed the criticism aside and made regular inspection trips as construction lurched forward.

It took nearly 10 years to complete the building. The cornerstone was laid on Oct. 13, 1792, in one of those wonderfully proper Masonic rituals of the time. According to White House historian William Seale, people gathered at the Fountain Inn, a grand eating and drinking emporium in Georgetown. They shuffled down the dusty road to the White House site led by the Freemasons, who were followed by the federal district commissioners, and behind them came "gentlemen of the town and neighborhood" (as described in a Charleston, S.C., newspaper that provided the only written record of the event). There was a moving oration by the grand master; wet mortar was spread on a foundation block; a polished brass plate with the names of the dignitaries and the date was pressed into the mortar and the cornerstone lowered onto the plate. The assembly no doubt cheered and then marched back to the Fountain Inn for a sumptuous dinner, which included 16 toasts honoring just about anything in America the diners could dream up. It has recently been suggested that the participants grew so tiddly from the toasting that they forgot where they put the cornerstone. Though the Charleston newspaper story of 1792 suggested it was in the southwest corner, the truth is we do not know today which is the cornerstone. White House staff members of our era tried radar, X rays and even some noted dowsers to find the treasure. The experts all chose different stones, and the Presidents have never let workmen cut into any of them. The mystery is likely to live on. Seale, ever the realist about the past, suspects that a bunch of rowdies may have come around that night and stolen it. They did things like that even back then.

Gambling and enthusiastic boozing among the construction crews who lived in shacks in what is now Lafayette Park were common and taken for granted. But when Betsy Donahue, the entrepreneurial wife of a carpenter, set up what was discreetly called "a riotous and disorderly house" and her husband began dragging men in off the





**1919** The White House grounds, previously a popular recreation area, were off limits to the general public during WW I. They reopened to much enthusiasm in early 1919

street to partake of her services, the district commissioners fined her and ordered her house removed. There followed such complaints from the stone carvers and masons that Betsy stayed in business without any interruption. Thus from the very beginning, there were, in and around the White House, the basic ingredients of all subsequent scandals—sex, money and power.

The still imperious British came back to America and captured Washington in 1814, burning the Capitol and the White House before leisurely returning to their ships in Annapolis. The worst insult may have come from British Rear Admiral George Cockburn, one of the commanders of the 150 seamen who skillfully torched the city, as the Federal Government's bureaucrats, including President James Madison and his Cabinet, ran like rabbits for the open country in Maryland and Virginia. Before ordering his men to set the building on fire, Admiral Cockburn told them to choose souvenirs from among the trivial things in the White House but nothing of real value that might bring charges of looting against the invaders. Then Cockburn scandalized the nation by brandishing a chair cushion and announcing it would help him remember Mrs. Madison's seat. By morning the White House was a blackened shell.

But the building—and the presidency—sprang back. The inner structure was rebuilt, and the sandstone shell was repaired and scrubbed down. Coats of white paint were applied, giving permanence to the name White House, which was first used in 1806. President James Monroe ea-

gerly moved in and threw a big party in celebration on Jan. 1, 1818.

The White House was never again captured, although there were close calls. During the Civil War, Union forces occasionally billeted in the East Room and the grounds of the White House. Life inside the building in those years was often chaotic, with job seekers, war contractors and distraught parents allowed to crowd in to seek time with Lincoln. The public could assemble too beneath the north portico whenever startling war news, good or bad, arrived. Lincoln often used a short, candle-lighted passageway from the upstairs quarters to a window over the entrance. There he would stand and talk to the people on the drive below. That small space is still reverently preserved.

As the country grew wealthy and powerful, a good number of Americans became dissatisfied with the modest lines of the White House. There were proposals, which seemed to grow dramatically with the years, for grand palace-like structures to house the President, his staff and family. The discussions grew quite serious in 1889, during the Administration of Benjamin Harrison. His wife Caroline adored her position as First Lady but wanted more living

space. Mercifully, all the grandiose dreamed in the face of costs and a growing sense that the country was deeply fond of George Washington's original creation. Theodore Roosevelt's brood dented the mansion here and there; son Quentin would bring a pony through the ground floor corridor and up the elevator so that his ailing brother Archie would be cheered. Along the way an exuberant country of inventors made sure that early on the White House had running water, indoor plumbing, electric lights, central heating, telephones—even some crude air conditioning; way back in 1881 to soothe the dying President James Garfield. Teddy Roosevelt, for all his progressive nature, was too fond of horses to adopt the automobile, though he was the first President to fly in an airplane. Right up to the end of his term in 1907, he insisted on horse-drawn carriages ("Roosevelts are horse people"), although the streets of Washington by then echoed with the growl of gasoline engines.

Woodrow Wilson put sheep on the White House lawn to help with the home front effort in World War I. In 1921 Calvin Coolidge was the first to try out radio, which Franklin Roosevelt then used so effectively in his fireside chats, broadcasting from the shadowy basement room arched with stone pillars right near the Map Room where he and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill planned the grand strategy for World War II.

Almost every modern President has made some structural contribution to the place. When the grand piano belonging to Margaret Truman, President Harry's daughter, was hoisted up to the second floor, a leg punched a hole through the ceiling, which led to the total rebuilding of the interior of the White House. About the same time, the Truman Balcony, which raised the hackles

of purists—was added and turned out to be a blessing for those living there. Jack Kennedy recast the décor with fine art and antiques. An outdoor swimming pool was installed for Jerry Ford and a jogging track for Bill Clinton, who not long ago spoke for all the modern Presidents—and, yes, Americans—when he mused while wandering through the White House corridors: "I love this place."



**George Washington tracked the design for the White House; future Presidents reaped the benefits**



## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### The First Occupant of the White House, John Adams: 1800-1801

#### *President Adams at the White House*

The Residence Act of 1790 required the federal government to be completely moved to a new capital city by November 1, 1800. President John Adams kept to the letter of the law, moving into the "President's House" (not to be called the White House until many years later) on that day.

Early in June 1800, President Adams and his secretary, William Shaw, toured the White House. President Adams inspected the White House, which had to be entered through the basement. The plasterwork was not completed and the wallpaper was enroute from Philadelphia. The president was assured that everything would be up as soon as the plaster was dry.

President Adams had two particular concerns about the White House: there were no household bells and no vegetable garden. Work began immediately on a garden on the northeast side of the White House.

On October 13, President Adams began his journey from Quincy, Massachusetts to the new capital. It is presumed that Adams traveled the Bladensburg Road to the Capitol, and then down Pennsylvania Avenue, to the President's House.

About noon on November 1, Anna Maria Thornton, the wife of Dr. William Thornton (first architect of the Capitol and a commissioner of the District of Columbia), and her mother were in a silversmith's shop when Mrs. Thornton glanced out of the window and saw, to her great surprise, the president.

President Adams entered the President's House at 1 p.m. that afternoon. He spent a long afternoon greeting well-wishers. Left at last alone, the president ate supper, and in the evening climbed the twisting service stairs to his bedchamber to sleep.

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The next day, in a letter to his wife Abigail, he penned his now famous prayer,

"I pray Heaven to bestow the best of Blessings on this House and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise Men ever rule under this roof."

In the final year of World War II, 145 years later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered Adams's benediction carved on the stone fireplace of the State Dining Room where it can be seen today.

Mrs. Adams arrived in Washington on Sunday, November 16. Approaching the new city in her coach, Mrs. Adams observed that houses were scattered over the countryside with "trees and stumps in plenty," and contrasted this chaos with the trim landscape she left in New England. She also described the unfinished White House as a "castle of a House," but was struck by its sublime location and beautiful view of the Potomac River.

Only about half the rooms had been plastered. Only one of the three planned staircases was built; facilities were just a well and a privy. Shanty lean-tos (structures with single-slope roofs that are attached to the sides of buildings as wings or extensions) and scaffolding built against the stone walls and the grounds were covered by weeds. The grounds, although cleared of extra building materials and workers' huts, were raw, muddy and covered with weeds.

The Adamses resided in only part of the President's House. The attic and many rooms were left empty and unused. John and Abigail occupied two bedrooms in the southwest corner of the second floor. Downstairs on the main floor, the completed rooms were used for official activities. What later became the Green Room functioned as a guest bedroom. The Blue Room was used as a southern entrance hall. The Adamses ate breakfast in what is now known as the Red Room. The East Room still had bare brick walls. Abigail used it as a drying room for clothes.

The Adamses lived in the President's House for only about four months. They moved into it despite the fact that it was partially completed. The Adamses helped establish what Abigail called "a house for the ages."

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## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### About the White House Historical Association-

The White House Historical Association is a charitable nonprofit institution whose purpose is to enhance the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the White House. To fulfill its purpose, the White House Historical Association produces educational literature and films, develops special programs, and maintains a Web site interpreting the White House and its history and the persons and events associated with it. From private funding and the sale of its educational products, the association supports the acquisition of artwork and objects for the White House collection and contributes to the conservation of the public rooms.

In 1961, when the National Park Service suggested that such an association be formed, the idea received Mrs. John F. Kennedy's ready approval. In July 1962, *The White House: An Historic Guide* was delivered to a public that had already ordered 10,000 copies. The guide is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> edition.

The year 2000 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the White House as the president's home. John Adams, the second president, moved into the White House on November 1, 1800. The Year 2000 Christmas ornament commemorates this special anniversary. A new book, *The White House: Its Historic Furnishings and First Families*, by Betty Monkman, White House Curator, also helps mark this anniversary by telling the story of the objects each president and his family have known in the mansion.

The association also sponsors lectures, exhibits and other outreach programs. Thousands of schools, universities and libraries have received free educational materials about the White House. Traveling exhibits and videos are circulated to the presidential libraries and museums. The Web site is [www.whitehousehistory.org](http://www.whitehousehistory.org).

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## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### HUGH S. SIDEY

*TIME* Magazine Contributor, Washington

Hugh Sidey has written about the American Presidency for more than 40 years. He began covering Dwight Eisenhower for the old *LIFE* Magazine in 1957, and later became *TIME*'s political and White House correspondent. Sidey served as *TIME* bureau chief and has authored the column the presidency since 1966.

Bill Clinton is the ninth president Sidey has written about. He reported on Eisenhower in the U-2 crisis, followed John Kennedy to the Vienna Summit with Nikita Khrushchev and was with Kennedy when he was assassinated in Dallas. Sidey roamed the world with the impetuous Lyndon Johnson, often being summoned to Air Force One to hear LBJ's stories of his encounters with the world's leaders. Sidey was on board when Richard Nixon jetted into China in 1972. He recorded Nixon's tragic exit from Washington two years later. The reporter journeyed to Vladivostok with Gerald Ford and he watched Jimmy Carter and the ailing Leonid Brezhnev embrace in Vienna in 1979.

Sidey was one of the few reporters to whom Ronald Reagan talked regularly during his eight years in the White House, and he was in Red Square when Reagan strolled with his new friend Mikhail Gorbachev. Sidey began to write about Congressman George Bush in 1966 and followed his crowded career to the presidency. Sidey was with Bush in Malta for the wave-tossed summit with Gorbachev, and Sidey was the only reported aboard Air Force One returning the president to Houston when he left office. The correspondent was returning the president to Houston when he left office. The correspondent was on the South Lawn of the White House when Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat were brought together by Clinton for the famous handshake that began peace talks between Israel and the PLO. And Sidey followed Clinton through his dark season of personal scandal.

Sidey is the son of a country editor, reared on the family's weekly newspaper in Greenfield, Iowa, where he occasionally returns to work. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1950 and began his journalistic career on papers in the Midwest. He joined *LIFE* in New York in 1955, then moved to Washington and *TIME*. He has authored or contributed to seven books on the presidency and was a panelist for nearly 25 years on *Inside Washington* (formerly *Agronsky and Company*). He is married to the former Anne Trowbridge, Columbia, Missouri. They have four children.

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## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**Neil W. Horstman**  
Executive Vice President

Neil Horstman has focused his career on helping communities and historic sites manage and achieve their preservation goals. Before entering the field in 1976, Mr. Horstman held several positions in city and regional planning. He has directed private preservation organizations in Louisville, Kentucky; Kansas City, Missouri; and Savannah, Georgia. From 1987 to 1994, he was Resident Director of Mount Vernon, George Washington's home, since 1853.

Since 1994, Horstman has served as Executive Vice President of the White House Historical Association and Administrator of the White House Endowment Trust and White House Acquisition Trust. The Association, founded by Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961, published educational materials on White House history, supports ongoing scholarship, sponsors national education programs, and financially supports the conservation of the public rooms of the White House and its incomparable collection of fine and decorative arts. Since its founding, the Association has contributed more than \$15 million for the preservation of the White House.

Horstman has served as an advisor to numerous private historic preservation and house museum organizations, in part through the Field Services Program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Since 1994, he has served as a surveyor for the accreditation program for the American Association of Museums. He has been a visiting lecturer and adjunct professor at a number of colleges and universities including Indiana University, the University of Hawaii, and the University of Florida's Preservation Institute: Nantucket.

Horstman received his bachelor's degree in community planning from the University of Cincinnati and a masters in public and environmental affairs from Indiana University. He is active in a number of community organizations including the Board of Trustees of the Preservation Alliance of Virginia and is past president of the Alexandria Library Company. Neil and his wife Anne reside in Leesburg, Virginia.



## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### White House Chronology

- 1790 A site for the new national capital is selected along the Potomac River.
- 1792 Architect James Hoban is selected as design competition winner.
- 1800 John and Abigail Adams move into the White House; the seat of government is moved from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C.
- 1801 The first public reception at the White House is held on New Year's Day.

President John Adams appoints "Midnight Judges," including Chief Justice John Marshall.

President Thomas Jefferson becomes the first president inaugurated in Washington and undertakes plans for a garden and a stone wall around the house.

A cooking stove replaced the kitchen's open-hearth fireplace for preparing meals.

- 1812 Dolley Madison arranges the wedding of her sister, Lucy Payne Washington, to Supreme Court Justice Thomas Todd, in the first known wedding ceremony held at the White House.
- 1814 The White House and Capitol are burned by the British on August 24<sup>th</sup> in the War of 1812. Dolley Madison saves the full-length portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart from the fire.
- 1817 President James Monroe moves into the reconstructed White House, still incomplete.

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1823 The Monroe Doctrine, signed in the White House, warns European powers against intervention in the Western Hemisphere.

1824 A South Portico is added to the White House.

The park across the street from the White House is named Lafayette Park to honor General Lafayette.

1825 President John Quincy Adams develops the first flower garden on the White House grounds and plants ornamental trees.

1828 On February 25, young John Adams, grandson of the former president, and son of President John Quincy Adams, marries Mary Catherine Hellen in the White House. The event marks the only time that a president's son has been married in the house.

1830 The North Portico is completed as the front porch of the White House.

1833 Running water is piped into the White House for the first time.

1835 First central heating system is installed.

President Andrew Jackson creates the White House orangery and plants the famous Jackson magnolia on the south side of the house.

1848 Gas lamps installed for President James K. Polk replace candles and oil lamps. Installation of a second and improved central heating system is completed.

1850 Abigail Fillmore, a former schoolteacher, obtained congressional funds to establish an official library in the White House.

1853 Running hot water is piped into the first family's second floor bathroom for the first time.

An efficient hot water heating system is installed for President Franklin Pierce.

1857 The orangery is demolished and a greenhouse is constructed on the west side of the White House.

1865 The first telegraph office is installed in the White House.



- 1871 President Ulysses S. Grant extends the grounds south and a great round pool is built on the south lawn.
- 1878 The tradition of planting commemorative trees to represent each president and state begins as hundreds of trees are planted under President Rutherford B. Hayes.
- 1879 The first telephone, with the phone number of simply "1," is installed for President Rutherford B. Hayes.
- 1881 The White House installs its first hydraulic elevator.
- 1886 President Grover Cleveland is the only president to be married in the White House; he married Frances Folsom, the daughter of a former law partner.
- 1889 President Benjamin Harrison brings the first Christmas tree inside the White House.
- 1891 Electric wiring is installed.
- 1901 The official name of the Executive Mansion is changed to the "White House."
- 1902 The White House is renovated under President Theodore Roosevelt. The conservatory is removed and a new "temporary" Executive Office Building, later called the West Wing, is erected.
- Edith Roosevelt plants a colonial garden on the west lawn.
- 1909 The West Wing office building is doubled in size by a southern expansion and includes the first presidential Oval Office.
- President William Howard Taft purchases official automobiles for the White House and converts the stable into a garage.
- 1913 President Wilson holds the first presidential press conference at the Executive Offices of the White House. About 125 newsmen attend.
- 1922 Electric vacuum cleaners are used in the White House for the first time.
- President Warren G. Harding has a radio installed in his study on the second floor of the White House.

- 1925 President Calvin Coolidge makes the first national radio broadcast from the White House.
- 1926 The White House acquires its first electric refrigerator; iceboxes had been in use since the Polk administration.
- 1933 Soon after his inauguration, President Franklin D. Roosevelt begins radio broadcasts, known as "fireside chats," to the nation.
- A heated indoor swimming pool is built as therapy for President Roosevelt's polio.
- 1934 The present Oval Office and Cabinet Room are built in a major West Wing expansion for President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- 1942 An East Wing is added to the White House. It includes a bomb shelter and a movie theater.
- 1947 President Truman delivers the first presidential address broadcast from the White House on October 5.
- 1948 A major renovation to rebuild the interior of the White House and add two underground levels begins under President Truman.
- 1955 President Eisenhower holds the first presidential news conference recorded by television and film on January 19.
- President Eisenhower is the first president telecast in color when he appears on NBC's *Home Show* on June 17.
- 1961 President John F. Kennedy has the Rose Garden redesigned and renovated.
- 1964 Lady Bird Johnson has the East Garden completed in honor of Jacqueline Kennedy.
- 1969 The indoor pool is covered over and made into a press room for the growing White House press corps.
- 1979 President Jimmy Carter brings President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel to the White House to sign an historic peace treaty between the two nations.

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- 1987 President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev sign a sweeping nuclear arms reduction treaty in the East Room.
- 1993 President Bill Clinton gets e-mail; Palestinian leader Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin sign an historic peace agreement at the White House.
- 2000 The White House celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### White House Living

- ❖ President Gerald R. Ford said it was “the best public housing I’ve ever seen.”
- ❖ President Harry S. Truman referred to the White House as a “glamorous prison,” the “great white sepulcher of ambitions,” or the “taxpayers’ house.”
- ❖ The movements of the President, First Lady and others are tracked within the White House. The Secret Service and ushers are alerted by signal when they enter a room.
- ❖ Right after the Inauguration in 1989, Barbara Bush said she wanted to use a smaller car rather than a big black limo and to travel by train or commercial airline when she had to go out of town. The Secret Service approved the smaller car but nixed the commercial travel “since the number of threats against the First Lady is higher than that for the vice president.”
- ❖ Nancy Reagan said that about a month after moving in to the White House, she was surprised when the usher sent up a bill for their food. “Nobody had told us that the president and his wife are charged for every meal, as well as for such incidentals as dry cleaning, toothpaste and other toiletries.”
- ❖ “The isolation of the President in the White House is not so much self-imposed as it is imposed by others and by the nature of the office itself. The ushers, military aides, and key staff members all try to ensure that the President’s energy is reserved for the big decisions; to spare him the petty details of life; to fulfill as quickly as possible his requests, large and small. His family is similarly isolated ... and are oddly unaware of most of the rumors that sweep through Washington ...,” according to Julie Nixon Eisenhower in *Pat Nixon, The Untold Story*.

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- ❖ “The Executive Mansion of the United States is far more than a temporary home for the family who lives there for four or eight years. It is now a museum containing priceless works of art and furnishings, a national monument open to 2 million tourists a year, a guest hotel for entertaining visitors of state and, in recent years, an impregnable fortress for protecting the life of the commander-in-chief.”

J.B. West, *Upstairs at the White House*.

- ❖ “I think we sat down to eat together only once, and as I looked around the table, Barbara and Jenna [George W. Bush’s twin daughters] were not anywhere to be seen. ...One of the butlers spoke up and said that they had just telephoned the kitchen and ordered sandwiches to be delivered to the bowling alley. The bowling alley! We put an end to that before it started, and they ate with us.”

Barbara Bush, *A Memoir*, on Inauguration Week, 1989, when her entire extended family stayed at the White House.

- ❖ “Jack took both pride and interest in the rose garden. He wanted to know the varieties. He had ideas about the juxtaposition of colors, and if there were yellow leaves or other signs of distress he wanted to know what ought to be done and who would take care of it. I must say I was a bit surprised, for I had never heard nor seen him demonstrate any interest in horticulture at home.”

Rose Kennedy, *Times to Remember*, about John Kennedy’s interest in the rose garden outside the Oval Office.

- ❖ “Every evening, while I took a bath, one of the maids would come by and remove my clothes for laundering or dry cleaning. The bed would always be turned down. Five minutes after Ronnie came home and hung up his suit, it would disappear from the closet to be pressed, cleaned or brushed. No wonder Ron used to call the White House an eight-star hotel.”

Nancy Reagan, *My Turn*.

- ❖ When the press on the outside wanted to know what she was doing inside, even when Tricia was “at home,” there was little privacy. The Secret Service was not with us on the mansion’s second and third floors, the family quarters, but the minute we stepped onto the public floors below our rooms, we were guarded...”

Julie Nixon Eisenhower, *Pat Nixon, the Untold Story*, discussing her older sister, Tricia Nixon.

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## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### Significant Foreign Visitors at the White House

- ❖ The Marquis de Lafayette was one of the first notable international guests of the White House. President John Quincy Adams honored the hero of the American and French Revolutions with a party on the Marquis de Lafayette's 68<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1825. The square across Pennsylvania Avenue would later be named to commemorate Lafayette.
- ❖ In 1860, President James Buchanan hosted the first envoys from Imperial Japan. Two royal princes and a dozen noblemen came with many servants. They carried a box containing a commercial treaty that would be exchanged for similar documents from the United States.
- ❖ The first ruling king to visit the White House was King David Kalakaua of the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii). President Ulysses S. Grant hosted him in 1874. Royal food testers sampled the White House dinner for the king.
- ❖ The king and queen of England came to Washington, D.C., in 1939 and stayed one night at the White House. It was the first trip to the United States by a British monarch.
- ❖ Charles de Gaulle met with President Harry Truman at the White House in 1945.
- ❖ The first Pope to visit the White House was Pope John Paul II, who came during the Carter presidency in 1979.
- ❖ President Jimmy Carter brought President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel to the White House to sign an historic peace treaty between the two nations in 1978.
- ❖ President Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Intermediate Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty, the first arms control agreement in history that reduced the number of nuclear weapons held by both countries, in 1987 in the East Room.
- ❖ Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat signed an historic peace treaty on September 13, 1993. President Bill Clinton and 3,000 visitors witnessed the moment on the south lawn of the White House.

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## WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### White House Renovation and Management

#### *Renovation*

The exterior of the White House today would be recognized by its eighteenth-century builders, albeit with the addition of the iconic North and South porticoes completed in the 1820s. Although the image of the White House has remained relatively unchanged, alterations by first families and designers to the interior have been nearly constant. The major renovations were:

#### 1814

- Burned to a smoke blackened shell by the British, the White House was rebuilt and occupied by President James Monroe in 1817.

#### 1829

- President Andrew Jackson furnished the East Room for the first time in 1829. From the 1830s until 1902, changes to the main block of the White House occurred principally to its interiors. Succeeding presidents and their wives periodically refurbished the house to reflect the changing tastes of their time. As the 19<sup>th</sup> century progressed and presidential families with children and other relatives crowded into a limited space, demands to move the offices increased. The ground floor was a utilitarian basement area of kitchens, storage rooms, furnace, servants' living quarters, and workspaces.

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## 1902

In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt directed a complete Colonial Revival style restoration of an aging house. This work led to sweeping changes to the Victorian décor and in the functioning of the building. It doubled the space allocated to the family living quarters. The White House and, with a few exceptions, much of the complex as we know it today reflects the design of 1902. This restoration preserved the White House as the home of the president.

- The West Wing, home of the Oval Office and offices for the White House staff, was built in 1902 on the site of a rambling glass conservatory. The wing was doubled in 1909 and the first Oval Office was added. A further expansion in 1934 created additional office space and the present Oval Office.

## 1920s

- During the Coolidge era, the roof was raised and a fire resistant third floor was added.

## 1940s

- The East Wing, home of the First Lady's offices, was completed in 1942.

## 1948-1952

- Years of piecemeal alteration had weakened the timbers supporting the interior of the White House. A renovation called for by President Harry S. Truman completely overhauled the house. In the end, the exterior was retained as a shell within which a new interior was built. Two levels of subbasements, and service areas under the North Portico were constructed, and the Grand Staircase was substantially changed. Of the state floor rooms, only the State Dining Room walls were saved and reinstalled, but then were painted.
- Before the renovation, the White House had 62 rooms, 26 halls and corridors and 14 baths. After, it had more than 100 rooms, 40 corridors, and 19 baths. A television broadcast room and bomb shelter were added to the mansion. Many of the new rooms were on the third floor and new basement levels.

- The new basement levels resembled the service and utility complex of a 1950s hotel, according to Truman's biographer, David McCullough. "There were storage rooms, a laundry, a dental clinic, medical clinic, staff kitchen, barbershop, pantries, everything very institutional looking....The main electrical control board looked big enough for a theater. Plumbing, heating, air conditioning, kitchen appliances, elevator, incinerator, fire alarm systems, wall safes – all were the most advanced of the day and cost well over \$1.25 million."
- The additional steel and concrete needed to make the lowest basement bombproof cost an additional \$868,000, according to McCullough. The bomb shelter entrance was a four-inch steel door with a narrow window at eye level. There was a small room with 70 army cots stacked against a wall as well as gas masks, chemical toilets, and acetylene torches in case occupants had to cut their way out of the steel door. There was also an emergency generator, Army rations, and a communications center with radios, telephone switchboard, and cryptographic machines.

#### 1960s

- Jacqueline Kennedy oversaw the redecoration of the White House interior restoring the historic integrity of the Red, Green and Blue Rooms, among others.
- Mrs. Kennedy obtained legislation placing the White House under the National Park Service, permitting unneeded objects to be stored or exhibited at the Smithsonian, and preventing art objects from neglect. Her efforts established the White House as a public museum with a permanent collection.
- Mrs. Kennedy established the post of White House curator and created the White House Historical Association to publish a guidebook about the Mansion. The book was a #1 best seller that raised money for the restoration, according to *Kennedy* by Theodore C. Sorensen.

#### Modern Era

##### 1964

- Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson institutionalized the program initiated by Mrs. Kennedy persuading President Johnson to create by Executive Order in 1964, the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, to which was transferred the responsibilities of Mrs. Kennedy's informal Fine Arts Advisory Committee.

**1970**

- Patricia Nixon and the Committee for the Preservation of the White House changed the Green and Red Rooms to a museum-like setting with acquisitions of high quality furnishings that survive in the rooms today.

**1979**

- Rosalynn Carter, an active honorary chair of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, endorsed and supported the establishment of the private, non-profit White House Preservation Fund to provide an endowment for the benefit of the White House.

**1981**

- Nancy Reagan raised more than \$800,000 in donations from private individuals to redecorate the private quarters and maintain the public rooms of the White House.
- As part of this effort, many of the Executive Mansion's large mahogany doors and wood floors were refinished, and the marble walls on the State and ground floors were restored, and the 29 fireplaces were cleaned.
- Bath and kitchen plumbing fixtures installed during the Truman administration were replaced with modern fixtures.

**1992**

- Barbara Bush reactivated the Committee for the Preservation of the White House (it had not met during the Reagan years) and supported the reorganization of the White House Preservation Fund. Revitalized as the White House Endowment Fund under the White House Historical Association, a goal of raising a twenty-five million dollar endowment was set for acquisitions, the care and refurbishing of the public rooms, and conservation of the White House Collection.

**1995-1998**

- Hillary Rodham Clinton, with the advice of the preservation committee, directs the refurbishment of the Blue Room, the East Room, the Entrance Hall, Cross Hall, Grand Staircase, and State Dining Room. Mrs. Clinton actively supported the White House Endowment Fund and through her efforts and that of other First Ladies, the funding goal was achieved in 1998.

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### *Management*

The White House is a large structure and from its earliest days domestic operations have demanded a general manager. For this purpose, President John Adams employed John Breisler and Thomas Jefferson through his two administrations, and relied heavily on his French steward Etienne Lemaire. These general managers, later called stewards or ushers, held a powerful and delicate position that called for the ability to communicate with politicians and officials as well as with the family and servants. The title of "chief usher" became official in 1897.

- The White House today is managed by the chief usher, a title that is a holdover from the days when the chief duty was "ushering" people in to meet the President and First Lady.
- Today, however, the chief usher is the general manager of the building, including construction, maintenance, remodeling, food, as well as the administrative, fiscal and personnel functions.
- The chief usher oversees the White House staff of butlers, maids, housekeepers, chefs, cooks, doormen, housemen, florists, electricians, plumbers, storekeepers, engineers and others.
- "During all my years of managing the White House ... my loyalty was not to any one president but rather to the presidency and to the institution that is the White House," J.B. West wrote.
- Since the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there have been seven chief ushers:
  - Thomas E. Stone (1903-1909)
  - Irwin H. (Ike) Hoover (1913-1933), author of *42 Years in the White House*.
  - Raymond Muir (1933-1938).
  - Howell G. Crim (1938 to 1957).
  - James B. West (1957 to 1969), wrote *Upstairs at the White House*.
  - Rex Scouten (1969 to 1986).
  - Gary Walters (1986-present).

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 1, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
AND HISTORIAN DAVID MCCULLOUGH  
AT CEREMONY OF 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE WHITE HOUSE

The South Lawn

12:20 P.M. EST

**MR. MCCULLOUGH:** Mr. President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. The first President to move into what was then known as the President's House, John Adams, of Quincy, Massachusetts, arrived here at this entrance at midday, Saturday, November 1, 1800, at just about this time. Very little looked as we now see it. The new federal city of Washington was no city at all. The Capitol was only half finished. Except for a few nondescript stores and hotels in the vicinity of the Capitol, the rest was mostly tree stumps and swamp.

The house itself was still quite unfinished. Fires had to be kept burning in all the fireplaces to help dry up the wet plaster. Only a few rooms were ready. Only one twisting back stairway connected the floors. Though the President's furniture had arrived, shipped from Philadelphia, it looked lost in these enormous rooms. The only picture hanging was Gilbert Stewart's full-length portrait of George Washington, which still hangs in the East Room.

These beautiful grounds did not exist. It was a different setting; it was a different country; and it was a different time. And in that age, no one ever knew when anyone was going to arrive anywhere, for certain, including the President of the United States. So on that historic morning, two district commissioners were inside inspecting the work when they happened to look out the window and commented, "There is the President of the United States." He had just rolled up in his carriage.

With him was his secretary, Billy Shaw, and one servant on horseback, John Brisling, who became the first steward federal the White House. There was nobody else. No honor guard, no band playing, no entourage of any kind. But who was that man that walked through these doors, the first of 40 Presidents who have lived here thus far?

Adams had just celebrated his 61st birthday two days before, en route from Philadelphia. He was about 5'7", which was middle size in that day, and stout, but physically very strong. He stood erect, shoulders back. He was accustomed at home to building stone walls and bringing in the hay. He was a farmer's son, descended from four generations of plain, God-fearing New England farmers, and proud of it.

He was, of course, one of our founding fathers, a leading figure in the American Revolution. Jefferson called him the colossus of independence, for the part he played in driving the Declaration of Independence through the Congress in that fateful summer of 1776. His role was decisive.

On missions to Europe in the midst of war, he traveled farther and under more adverse conditions in the service of his country than any American of his time, by far. It was John Adams who secured the desperately needed loans from the Dutch to help finance the war. He was a signer of the Paris peace treaty that ended the war, and the first American to appear before King George, III, as a minister for the new United States of America.

Between times he also drafted the oldest written Constitution still in use in the world today -- the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, written 10 years before our own Constitution, and had great influence on the national Constitution. He was our first Vice President, under George Washington, and elected President in 1796, defeating his old friend, Thomas Jefferson.

John Adams could be proud, vain, irritable, short-tempered. He was also brilliant, warm-hearted, humorous, a devoted husband and father, and a lifelong talker, an all-out, full-time talker. He loved Don Quixote. He loved the English poets. He carried a book with him everywhere he traveled, and

once said to his son, John Quincy, you'll never be alone with a poet in your pocket.

He never had any money to speak of, and he is the only one of our founding fathers who, as a matter of principle, never owned a slave. Further, John Adams had the immense good fortune to be married to Abigail Smith Adams, one of the most extraordinary Americans of that extraordinary era. And their letters to one another constitute a national treasure. They number well over a thousand.

John Adams was a great man and a highly principled President in tumultuous times. Though gravely mistaken when he signed the infamous Alien and Sedition Acts, he had the good sense and determination and the courage to keep America from going to war with France, which was a very great accomplishment, indeed, with far-reaching consequences.

But let us not forget, too, that it was John Adams who nominated George Washington to be Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. It was John Adams who insisted that Jefferson be the one to write the Declaration of Independence. And it was President John Adams who made John Marshall Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. As a casting director alone, he was brilliant.

Abigail Adams did not arrive here to join her husband until two weeks later, in that long-ago November. She could never get over the size of the house. She called it the castle, and hung her laundry out to dry in the then unfinished East Room. The Adamses lived in the house less than four months, and it was not a happy time for them. Adams learned of his defeat for reelection by Jefferson in what was perhaps the most vicious presidential campaign in our history. Then, within days he and Abigail received the word -- devastating word -- that their second son, Charles, had died in New York of alcoholism.

There were men and women in that day, in their time, who would have refused to have lived in the White House in the condition it was in. But they made do without complaint. On January 1, 1801, they held the first New Year's Day reception here ever -- open house.

On his first evening in this house, following a light supper, John Adams retired early for the night. We may picture him with a single candle climbing that twisting back stairway. Early the next morning he went to his desk on the second floor and addressed a now famous letter to Abigail. Franklin Roosevelt thought so highly of the letter, and of two sentences in it, that he had it carved into the wooden mantelpiece in the State Dining Room. And when Harry Truman supervised the rebuilding of the White House, he insisted that that inscription remain where it is today.

When John F. Kennedy was President, he had the



inscription carved into the mantelpiece in marble. "I pray heaven," Adams wrote, "to bestow the best of blessings on this house, and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof."

John Adams lived another 25 years, to age 90, longer than any President. As it happened, he and Thomas Jefferson died on the same day -- and it wasn't just any day; it was "the" day, July 4, 1826, 50 years to the day of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

A few days before Adams' death, a delegation of his Quincey neighbors came to call on him. The old President sat in an arm chair in his library as they asked if he could give them a toast that they might read aloud at the town's 4th of July celebration. "I will give you," said Adams, "independence forever." Asked if he would like to add something more to that, he said, "Not a word."

That was the man who first occupied the White House. I think how pleased he and Abigail would be if they were here to see how we've gathered today. To see the country they so loved still independent, still united and thriving, still strong, still free, and this grand old house looking so magnificent. But then, maybe they are here with us today. (Applause.)

**THE PRESIDENT:** Thank you very much, and good afternoon. I know I speak for all of us in thanking David McCullough for that wonderful review of President Adams' life and presidency. We could all listen to him all day and never stop learning.

I thank Bob Stanton for his distinguished work at the Park Service. I'd like to thank Representatives Delahunt and Markey for coming here, for representing the state of Massachusetts, home of the Adams family. I thank all the descendants of the Adams family who are here with us today, and I know that they share in the pride all Americans feel for the contributions of John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams, and so many other members of their family, to the richness of our nation's history.

Mayor Williams, thank you for joining us here today. I'd like to thank the members of the White House Historical Association Board, including Bob Breedan and Hugh Sidey and Neil Horstman, who helped this month of celebrations possible. I'd like to thank the people here at the White House who played their role -- Milanne Verveer, the First Lady's Chief of Staff, who has worked so hard on the historic preservation work we've been honored to do these last eight years; and especially our chief usher, Gary Walters, and through him all the members of the White House staff -- for 200 years now have been the unsung heroes of making this place work every day, making it a place available to the American people, and still a home for the President and his





family.

I'd also like to thank the United States Marine Band. For more than 200 years they have set a standard of musical excellence that has enriched this house and our entire nation. They have been the President's own, and for me it has been a special honor and treat. They have stirred the spirits of more people than President Adams could ever have imagined when he signed the bill creating the Marine Band. And today their music is in honor of his memory. So let's give them a big hand. Thank you very much for being here. (Applause.)

As David McCullough just said, the capital city President Adams helped to shape was a very different place than the Washington we know today. Our nation was new, and still carving out the symbols that would define it forever. History tells us that even as the city's planners debated the final design of this house, masons laid its stone foundations more than four feet thick. Like our nation's founders, these men were building a monument to freedom and they wanted it to last.

In 1814, when the British troops captured Washington, they entered the President's House, as it was then known, to find supper still on the table. The First Lady, Dolly Madison, had prepared it for her husband, but had to leave it behind when she fled. Well, the British were uncouth enough to eat the supper before they set fire to the house. (Laughter.) When the smoke finally cleared, it was just a charred shell; but the stone walls stood strong, and so did our nation.

For two centuries now, Americans have looked to the White House as a symbol of leadership in times of crisis, a reassurance in times of uncertainty, of continuity in times of change, a celebration in times of joy. These walls carry the story of America. It was here at the White House that President Jefferson first unrolled maps of a bountiful continent to plan the Lewis and Clark expedition. Here that President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves, some of whose ancestors have quarried the very stone from which the White House was built. Here, that President Roosevelt held the Fireside Chats, willing his nation through the Depression, then marshaling our allies through the war.

Over the course of two centuries, the White House has also been home to 40 Presidents and their families, including mine. Hillary, Chelsea and I love this house. We have loved living here. It is still a thrill every time I drive up in a car or land on the back lawn in the helicopter, just to look at this magnificent place, and to feel the honor of sharing its history for these eight years. We are profoundly grateful to the American people for letting it be our home for these years.

One of the best things about it, like any home, is welcoming others to share in its beauty and history. Not just



heads of state or great artists or famous scholars, but the people this house really belongs to -- the American people.

The White House is the only executive residence in the entire world that is regularly open, free of charge, to the public. And every year, nearly a million and a half people walk through its halls, marveling at the history and taking away perhaps a little better sense of who we are as a nation.

Hillary has taken a special interest in supporting this living museum, showcasing the full diversity of our nation's art, culture and history. I thank her, especially, for establishing the Sculpture Garden over here to my left in the Jackie Kennedy Garden. And from the day we moved in, she has also devoted herself to preserving the White House, and has personally overseen the restoration of several of its public rooms, rooms on the Residence floor, on the second floor and on the third floor.

Working with the White House Historical Association, she's also helped to raise a lasting endowment, something that is profoundly important because it will enable us to better preserve the White House and its collections for all generations to come.

In renewing this beloved monument to our nation's history and freedom, we also renew our commitment to the dream of our founders -- that our democracy, built upon bedrocks of liberty and justice, will grow ever stronger and remain forever young.

So as the White House enters its third century, let us remember President John Adams, being grateful to him for his many contributions to our republic and his determination to define us as one nation. And let us share his prayer that in this house the best of blessings will be bestowed, and that leaders here will find the wisdom and the guidance to do well by our nation, to do well by all of our people, and to be a responsible leader in the larger world.

That's what John Adams tried to do; that's what America has tried to do for 200 years now. We are still in the business of forming that more perfect union of our founders' dreams. I hope and believe he would be pleased.

Now, let the celebration begin. (Applause.)

END

12:40 P.M. EST

Message Sent To: \_\_\_\_\_



Final 10/31/00 7:30 p.m.  
John Pollack

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON  
STATEMENT ON  
THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
November 1, 2000**

Good afternoon. Thank you, David McCullough. I could listen to you all day, and never stop learning. Director Bob Stanton; Members of Congress; Mayor Williams; descendants of the Adams family; members of the White House Historical Association Board, including Bob Breedan (BREE-den), Hugh Sidey (rhymes with Heidi) and Neil Horstman, who helped make this month of celebrations possible; our Chief Usher Gary Walters; White House staff; honored guests – thank you all for joining us today.

Let me also thank the Marine Band for their music. For more than 200 years, they have set a standard of musical excellence that has enriched not just this house, but this nation. They have stirred the spirits of more people than President Adams could ever have imagined when he signed the bill creating them, and their music today is an honor to his memory.

As we just heard from David McCullough, the capital city that President Adams helped shape was a very different place than the Washington we know today. Our nation was new, and still carving out the symbols that would define it.

History tells us that, even as the city's planners debated the final design of this house, masons laid its stone foundations more than four feet thick. Like our nation's Founders, these men were building a monument to freedom, and they wanted it to last.

In 1814, when British troops captured Washington, they entered the President's House, as it was then known, to find supper still on the table. The First Lady, Dolley Madison, had prepared it for her husband, but had to leave it behind when she fled. Well, the British ate that supper. Then they set fire to the house. And when the smoke finally cleared, it was a charred shell.

But the stone walls stood strong. And so did our nation.

For two centuries now, Americans have looked to the White House as a symbol of leadership in times of crisis, of reassurance in times of uncertainty, of continuity in times of change, of celebration in times of joy. These walls tell the story of America.

It was here at the White House that President Jefferson first unrolled maps of a bountiful continent, to plan the Lewis & Clark expedition. It was here that President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation that freed the slaves, some of whose ancestors had quarried the very stone from which the White House itself was built. It was here that President Franklin Roosevelt

held his fireside chats, willing this nation through Depression, then marshaling our allies through war.

Over the course of two centuries, the White House has also been home to 40 Presidents and their families – including mine. Hillary, Chelsea and I love this house, and we are profoundly grateful to the American people for letting us make it our home for nearly eight years. One of the best things about it – like any home – is welcoming others to share in its beauty.

Not just heads of state or great artists or famous scholars, but the people this house really belongs to – the American people. The White House is the only executive residence in the world that is regularly open, free of charge, to the public. Every year, nearly 1.5 million visitors walk through its halls, marveling at the history and taking away, perhaps, a little better sense of who we are as a nation.

Hillary has taken a special interest in supporting this living museum, showcasing the full diversity of our nation's art, culture and history. From the day we moved in, she has also devoted herself to preserving the White House itself, and has personally overseen the restoration of public rooms, so that all visitors might better understand our nation's past. Working with the White House Historical Association, she has also helped raise a lasting endowment, to better preserve the White House and its collections for generations to come.

In renewing this beloved monument to our freedom, we also renew our commitment to the dream of our Founders; that our democracy – built upon the bedrock foundations of liberty and justice – will grow ever stronger, and remain forever young.

So as the White House enters its third century, let us once again remember the words of President Adams, now inscribed in the mantel of the State Dining Room: "I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house, and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof."

Now, let the celebration begin.

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*Public Papers of the Presidents*

## Public Papers of the Presidents

April 7, 2000

**CITE:** 36 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 771**LENGTH:** 1934 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at a Screening of PBS' "The American President" Documentary Series**BODY:**

*The President.* Thank you very much, and welcome. I want to say a special word of welcome to all the voices of the Presidents who are here -- and they were supposed to give me a list of them -- I don't know what happened, I just saw it. [Laughter] But I know we have Senator Bumpers, Senator Glenn, Senator Simon, Representative Rostenkowski, Governors Weicker and Weld. Bill Ferris, we welcome you here. And a special word of thanks to Sy Sternberg and his family. We appreciate the fact that New York Life has underwritten this.

I also want to thank the coproducers, Philip Kunhardt, Jr., and Philip Kunhardt III and Peter Kunhardt. And there are some other voices here from the series: Ben Bradlee, Walter Cronkite, James Roosevelt, Charlie Rose -- I don't know if he's here or not -- and Tim Russert.

Tonight this is a fitting way for us to open the first in a series of events celebrating the 200th anniversary of the White House. It is clearly the right thing to do to begin by honoring the lives of individuals who have roamed the halls and carried the burden of the Presidency within the walls of the White House.

This room has not only witnessed historical events, it has played a role in shaping them. It has hosted 42 administrations and 41 different personalities, every President except George Washington. The East Room began as a laundry room for Abigail Adams -- an auspicious beginning -- [laughter] -- reminding us that there are certain basic elements to this job.

Thomas Jefferson and Meriwether Lewis laid maps and animal skins on this floor where you're sitting and charted the Lewis and Clark expedition. Later, in 1814, a banquet was being held here in this White House and in this room when James Madison sent Dolley word that the Army had miscalculated where the British were going to assault Washington, and he told her to cut Gilbert Stuart's painting of George Washington down and get out of the house as quickly as possible. She did, and they had to leave the banquet here. The British came in, ate the food, and then burned the White House. [Laughter]

Later, this house and this room was the headquarters for battle-worn Union troops during the Civil War. President Roosevelt's children roller-skated here. Over the years, this room and this house have survived a major fire, two wars, a plane crash, and five weddings. And of course, it has been a gallery for some priceless art which embodies the history of this country.

Each President in his own time has survived unique challenges, striving to fulfill the purpose of our Founders to form a more perfect Union. Tonight we will have the opportunity to see two of these selections from the "American President" series, the first documentary series ever to profile all of our Chief Executives.

The first viewing is on the life of Thomas Jefferson. Every American President has been inspired by Jefferson, affected by his decisions, fascinated by his life story. He spent a lifetime shaping our new and ever-evolving democracy. It would become, as he said, more developed, more enlightened as new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, manners and opinions change.



One hundred and fifty years later, our 35th President, John Kennedy -- whose sister, Eunice, is with us tonight, and we thank you for coming -- brought that same spirit of innovation and progress to the White House. His fleeting time in this house remains a singular story in our history. Our President for only a thousand days, he changed the way we think about our country, our world, and our own obligations to the future. The New Frontier inspired millions of Americans to take a personal responsibility for making our country stronger and more united. As he said, "The New Frontier is not a set of promises. It is a set of challenges. It sums up not what I intend to offer the American people but what I intend to ask of them."

Many great people have called this house home. All of them, so far, have been white males of European descent. I am absolutely convinced that in the not-too-distant future, there will be a woman President, and a person of color will occupy the White House and the Oval Office. But the Presidency was not built by one person. And in a fundamental way, it has been carried forward by the American people since the beginning.

I have spent a lot of time reading the **histories** of various periods in the **White House** and the biographies of some of my lesser known predecessors. One of the things that I hope this series will do is to give people a feel of the mixture of the personality and character and skills of a President and his time, and also a sense of what personal joys and tragedies surrounded Presidents.

Just for example, Franklin Pierce, one of the only other Presidents who came from a small State and was a Governor, is generally accounted not to have been a very good President. But when you consider the times in which he served, I wonder whether Lincoln could have succeeded in 1853, instead of 1861. And almost never do I hear anyone talk about the fact that when Franklin Pierce was on his way to be inaugurated, with his wife and his only child, he took the train from New Hampshire to Washington, and there was a minor accident in which 10 or 11 people received minor bruises. But his son fell on his head, cracked his spine, and died. He never recovered. His wife never recovered.

I've often wondered why it was that Abraham Lincoln, who would have a hard time getting elected today because he had terrible periodic, persistent bouts of depression before he became President, was married to a wife who was bubbly and strong and happy and, as far as I know, has the distinction of being the only woman in American history to have been courted by three of the four candidates for President in 1860. [Laughter] For John Breckenridge and Stephen Douglas also pursued her, and clearly she made the right decision. [Laughter]

But they had lost a child before they came to the White House. They lost another child here. She lost three half-brothers fighting for the Confederacy. And then all the carnage of the Civil War, the burden of the tragedies they faced broke Mary Todd Lincoln, and in history she is seen as a very different person from the person she really was for most of her life. And yet, in some magical way, all the personal and national trauma of that time was absorbed by Abraham Lincoln in a way that enabled him to become stronger, to overcome his own demons, to leave aside his own depression, and to become, in my view, the greatest President we ever had.

So I hope when this whole series is done, there will be a greater appreciation for people like Rutherford B. Hayes, who Senator Glenn is the voice of in this series. Rutherford B. Hayes was one of four or five Union generals from Ohio who became President. After the Civil War, if you were a Union general from Ohio, you had about a 50 percent chance of becoming President. [Laughter] It's the only category in our history that has ever been like that. And a lot of the rest of us wish that it had been so easy. [Laughter]

I hope we'll understand those people that we don't know very much about. I hope we'll have a better understanding of the personal circumstances that Presidents face. I hope we'll have a better understanding of how they fit with their times and how they overcame their difficulties, as President Lincoln did.

Theodore Roosevelt once complained that he would never be viewed as a great President because



he had the misfortune to serve when there was no great war. He couldn't have been more wrong. And I'm convinced his temperament was absolutely perfectly suited to the times in which he served. Ironically, since he complained about having no war, he's the only President ever to win the Nobel Prize for peace. [Laughter] Which all goes to show you, you've just got to show up every day and do your best. [Laughter]

Now, I'd like to ask Sy Sternberg, the chairman of New York Life, to come up. And again, I think we should all thank him for making this evening possible. [Applause]

[At this point, Seymour Sternberg, chairman and chief executive officer, New York Life Insurance Corp., made brief remarks and introduced coproducer Philip Kunhardt III, who made brief remarks and presented two clips from the series.]

The President. Well, I would like to, first of all, congratulate Hugh Sidey and Richard Neustadt on the marvelous job they have done with this program, and all of you who are involved in it.

When I was watching those two very important pieces of our history, I couldn't help feeling grateful for some of the things which have been passed down to the present day, to me. The day before I became President, I received a copy of the only book that Thomas Jefferson ever wrote, "Notes From the State of Virginia," which is remarkable for its incredibly detailed analysis of everything about the State. But it's most important today because it contained the first known recording of Thomas Jefferson's condemnation of slavery. And it always struck me that every person in this job lives with a certain ambiguity, and I wondered how he dealt with it. But I'm grateful for what he left us.

Shortly after I became President, Pamela Harriman gave me a copy of the ink blotter that President Kennedy used in his office in the White House, that Mrs. Kennedy had given to her husband, Averill, about 12 days after President Kennedy was killed -- with the letter that Jackie Kennedy had written. And because it was my great good fortune to know Jackie and her children, it is one of my most precious possessions. About once a month I open the ink blotter and read the letter again, just to remember how fleeting life is and what a great gift every day is.

I think one of the most treasured pictures I have from my time in the White House is the picture I have of young John Kennedy looking at his father's portrait on a visit he made here, when we had a wonderful preview here of the great series on space that HBO did.

So the history of the country goes on, and the families come and go. But you have given us a great gift tonight, and this whole series will be a great gift. And one of the things that I had hoped would occur, you have done, even with people who lived long ago: You have reminded us that for all their achievements and all their failures, they were also people.

The great premise of democracy is that ordinary people will make the right decision most of the time; that no one is irreplaceable, but that freedom is.

I hope you'll all join us now in the Dining Room for a reception. And thank you again, to the Kunhardts; thank you again, Sy; thank you again to PBS; and thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:25 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Senators Dale Bumpers, John Glenn, and Paul Simon; former Representative Dan Rostenkowski; former Governors Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., of Connecticut and William F. Weld of Massachusetts; Ben Bradlee, former executive editor, Washington Post; Walter Cronkite, former CBS News anchorman; James Roosevelt, grandson of Franklin D. Roosevelt; Charlie Rose, host of PBS' "The Charlie Rose Show"; Tim Russert, host of NBC News' "Meet the Press"; and Hugh Sidey, narrator, and Richard Neustadt, on-camera scholar, "The American President." This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH



*Public Papers of the Presidents*

## Public Papers of the Presidents

October 12, 1999

**CITE:** 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2015**LENGTH:** 2999 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at the Eighth Millennium Evening at the White House**BODY:**

*[The First Lady began the program making brief remarks and introducing the evening's featured speakers: Dr. Vinton Cerf, senior vice president of Internet architecture and technology, MCI WorldCom, who discussed the evolution of Internet technology; and Dr. Eric Lander, director, Whitehead Institute/MIT Center for Genome Research, who discussed advances in genetic research and biotechnology.]*

*The President.* We have had many wonderful nights here, but I don't think I've ever been more stimulated by two talks in my life. Thank you, Dr. Cerf. Thank you, Dr. Lander.

I would like to also say a word of appreciation to Hillary. I think that as our time here draws toward its close, it's clear that she has been, I believe, the most active and innovative First Lady since Eleanor Roosevelt, for, perhaps these Millennium Evenings will last longer in the imagination of America than virtually anything any of us have done, and I thank her for that.

Also, being term-limited does have its compensations. Normally, at this time of year, in this kind of year, I'd be doing something else tonight. *[Laughter]* Yesterday I called the Vice President to rub it in and describe what I would be doing tonight. *[Laughter]* And I was having a very good time turning the screw about how fascinating this was going to be. And finally, he said, "That's okay, you need to be there more than I do." *[Laughter]* The jokes about my technological and scientific limitations are legion around the White House. *[Laughter]*

So I have been thinking of all these questions -- do I really want a mouse smart enough to go to Princeton? *[Laughter]* Won't it be sad to have an Internet connection with Mars if there are no Martians to write to or E-mail us? *[Laughter]* I am glad to know that the total connection of the Internet to the nervous system of human beings is a little ways out there in the future. I had been under the impression that that has already occurred among all children under 15 in America. *[Laughter]*

This is an amazing set of topics. Let me say just one other thing. I really loved seeing -- on a slightly sad note, I loved seeing that wonderful, famous picture of Wilt Chamberlain and Willie Shoemaker. Some of you may know the great Wilt Chamberlain passed away today, one of the greatest athletes of the 20th century. So I hope you will have him and his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers tonight.

This is a fitting thing for us to do in the **White House**, because innovations in communication and technology are a very important part of the **history** of this old place. In 1858 the first transatlantic telegraph transmission was received here in a message that Queen Victoria sent to President Buchanan. Later, the first telephone in Washington, DC, was located in a room upstairs, and we now have a replica of that telephone in the same room upstairs. The first mobile phone call to the Moon was made here by President Nixon 30 years ago. Even these Millennium Evenings have made their own history. This is where we held the first-ever cybercast at the White House.

So I want to thank the speakers for building on all of this and telling us what we can look forward to in the future and for reminding us that as we unlock age-old mysteries and make what we can

think more possible to do, there are ways to do it that bring us together as a society.

So I would like to begin the questioning, if I might, with a question to Dr. Lander, because it bears on a great deal of the work we've done.

You talked about how we were 99.9 percent the same, but how if you looked at how many permutations there were in the one-tenth of a percent left, we could still be very different. I think it's very interesting -- and I talk about this all the time -- that as we're on the edge of this new millennium and we have these evenings and we imagine this future that you have sketched out to us, this is what we all like to think about, how exciting, how wonderful, how unbelievable it can be. The biggest threat to that future is how many of us on this globe are still in the grip of the most primitive of human limitations, the fear of the other, people who are different from us. And we see all over the world, from Bosnia and Kosovo to the Middle East, to Northern Ireland, to the tribal wars in Africa, how easily the focus on our differences -- that one-tenth of one percent -- as what matters can lead first to fear and then to hatred and then, ultimately, to dehumanizing people who are different.

And it's very interesting -- as someone who grew up in the segregated South and lived with the whole terrible and, yet, beautiful struggle of the civil rights years, to think that there were in my hometown people who were dehumanizing other people because of the one-tenth of one percent difference between them is quite an awesome thing to contemplate.

So I would like to ask you, if you could say in ways that would make sense to us, explain to us a little bit what is it that makes us the same and what is it that makes us different? And how could we communicate this scientific knowledge to people in a way that would diminish the force of racism and other bigotry in the world in which we live?

*[Dr. Lander responded to the President's question, and Ellen Lovell, Director, White House Millennium Council, then led the question-and-answer portion of the evening. One of the questions concerned the legal status of privacy rights.]*

*The President.* Let me just say this. We've been working on this, and it's very important to me because I'm a fanatic about this issue. I want unlimited scientific discovery, and I want unlimited applications. But I think we don't want people to lose their sense of self and the fragility of their personhood, here, in some sort of assault. So we've been working on this.

What you said sounds great, but it's not as easy to do as it sounds. So I think it might be helpful, if I could just ask Secretary Shalala, who is in charge of one piece of this, which is our efforts to protect the privacy of medical records, just to talk a little bit in practical terms about what we're doing to respond to this young man's question.

Donna, would you -- there's a mike.

*[Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala noted the relative lack of Federal protection of an individual's health information, citing that video rental records are more secure. She also said a person's State of residence can make a difference.]*

*The President.* But let's deal with two hard questions here, real quick -- I think this is important. Question number one, pretty soon if the genome project is brought to fruition, according to what Dr. Varmus told me, when I spent a day out there, it will become normal in some point in the not-too-distant future for young mothers to go home with their babies from the hospital with a map of their genetic future. You may not want to know about Alzheimer's, but you could know about things that even if you can't cure you could delay, defer, or minimize. So you get that.

Now, the mother and the father are employed by someone, and they provide family health insurance. Since private insurance is based on a reasonable approximation of risk -- I don't agree with the way we finance health care in this country; you all know that, but that's a fight I didn't

win here in the last 7 years -- if it's based on an assessment of risk, what should the insurance company have a right to know? And if the insurance company doesn't have a right to know, haven't you undermined the whole basis of privately funded insurance based on risk -- question one. Question two for you.

*Dr. Cerf.* We don't get to answer that one?

*The President.* Yes, I want you to answer that, but I want you guys to talk. Question two, this is the problem we face in a much more grave sense in dealing with the prospect of cyberterrorism or something. It's one thing for us to write laws that protect privacy of records. But you just got through -- in answering Omar's question, you were talking about how, well, but all these kids are always figuring out -- well, among the things they're figuring out is how to break into various systems all the time. So even if we had perfect laws, how are we going to protect privacy when we're dealing with all of these creative geniuses out there working through the net? Respond to those two questions.

*[Dr. Lander answered that insurance companies' right to know depended on whether insurance was about matching rates to risks or about sharing risks not chosen. The question-and-answer portion of the evening continued and included a question from the Internet by Danella Bryce in Sydney, Australia, about technology's effect on alleviation of growing numbers of the disadvantaged in world population.]*

*The President.* Can I give -- you said that we got 6 billion people last night. Half of them live on \$ 2 a day; 1.3 billion live on \$ 1 a day or less. Those are the numbers behind what Ms. Bryce is asking.

*[The discussion continued.]*

*The President.* If I might just interject, I don't know the answer to this, but I've spent a lot of time thinking about it. This woman, Ms. Bryce, she works, and she's talked about she works in sustainable development. A big problem in poor countries, they totally destroy the environment to try to develop, and then they don't have anything upon which to develop. The biggest problem in our hemisphere is Haiti. If you fly over the island of Hispaniola, you know when you're going from the Dominican Republic to Haiti because in all the years when it was governed by dictatorships they just tore down all the trees and -- if any of you know anything about it, know this.

The real question is, we used to have certain assumptions about development in a poor country; that if you wanted ever to build a middle class life for a substantial number of the people, yet have X amount of electric generating capacity, and you had to have Y number of roads, and you had to have Z number of manufacturing companies, no matter what they did to greenhouse gases, and that eventually you get around to building schools and universal education -- and then 30 or 40 years later you start letting the girls go to school with the boys and there is this sort of thing that would happen.

I do believe that the question, the real question is if you're running a country like this, should you put this sort of infrastructure development first? That is assuming you've got a base level of electricity necessary to run a system. Should you do this first because this gives you the possibility to skip a whole generation of development that would otherwise take 30 years in the economy and in education? And I think the answer to that, at least, is, maybe -- at least, is, maybe. That I think is really the question that this woman is asking.

*[The discussion continued.]*

*The President.* If I could just give you one example, because I think this may have also relevance for remote, physically remote areas in America, Appalachia, the Native American reservations, things of this kind.



We were talking before we came in here tonight -- I was out in northern California the weekend before last. And I was talking with a lot of people who work for eBay, and they were telling me that there are now, in addition to the employees of eBay, over 20,000 people who make a living on eBay, buying and selling and trading, and that a fair number of these people were actually people who once were on welfare, who moved from welfare to work. That is, from -- and presumably a lot of them work -- didn't have a lot of formal education. They had made this jump, and a market had been created for them, where they lived, that otherwise would be alien to their own experience. They wouldn't have been able to go down to the bank and get a loan and on and on and on.

Now, last year we made -- and this year we will make, through our aid programs in foreign countries -- over 2 million microenterprise loans to poor people, to help them start their businesses in Africa and Latin America and Asia. If you could somehow marry the microenterprise concept to setting the infrastructure of the Internet out there, I do think it's quite possible that you could skip a generation in economic development in a way that would reinforce rather than undermine the environment.

*[The question-and-answer portion of the evening continued.]*

*The President.* Did you say you expected the penetration of the Internet to equal that of the telephone by 2006?

*[Dr. Cerf confirmed the Internet would equal the size of the telephone system by 2006 and, thereafter, exceed both telephone and television.]*

*The President.* I want to get to the genes, but I think we should answer that question, too. The whole question of whether we're going to develop a digital divide in our country, I think, is a very, very serious one. Our administration, especially the Vice President, when we rewrote the Telecommunications Act, we fought very hard not only to get people to participate in NetDay to hookup every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000 -- I think we'll get there by the end of the year; functionally, we'll be just about there -- but also, to get the Federal Communications Commission to adopt an E-rate which would subsidize the cost to poor schools and poorer hospitals and poor areas and isolated rural areas, so that everyone could have access in the schools.

Now, but the divide won't be bridged until the parents of those children have that in their home. So I think we ought to have as a goal at least to make access to computer technology and to the Internet as universal as telephone access is. And I think until we achieve that, there will be a digital divide, so we ought to try to hasten that day and promote whatever policies we can afford or we can achieve to hasten that day, because until we do, there will be a digital divide.

*Dr. Cerf.* I agree with that. In fact, it's a goal. A personal goal of mine is to see, literally, Internet everywhere.

*The President.* Now, what about the gene? That goes to patenting and all that, doesn't it?

*[The discussion and question-and-answer portion of the evening continued. The First Lady then introduced the outgoing Director of the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Harold E. Varmus.]*

*Dr. Varmus.* I assume by "outgoing" you mean I'm leaving, as opposed to my social behavior. *[Laughter]*

*The President.* You mean, as if an outgoing head of NIH were an oxymoron? *[Laughter]*

*[Dr. Varmus made brief remarks about the role of genetics in cancer research at NIH.]*

*The President.* Before we go on, I just want to say -- we sort of glided over this -- this man has done a magnificent job at the NIH for a long time and I am very grateful. We thank you for it, for



your service to your country.

*[The question-and-answer portion of the evening continued.]*

Ms. Lovell. I think you just summed up the whole evening. And I'm going to give the President the last minute.

The President. Well, you know, that great humorist Ogden Nash once said, "Progress may be all right, but it's really gone on too long." *[Laughter]* And I was thinking that if he were here tonight, he would have to revise his opinion.

This has been an astonishing evening for me and for Hillary and I hope for all the American people and the people throughout the world who have been a part of this.

I want to thank you both. I want to just leave you with one thought: There are public responsibilities involved here, particularly for basic research. We have been very successful, and never more successful than under the leadership of Dr. Varmus, in getting strong bipartisan, nonpartisan support for investments in health. And I think that it's obvious that we can all see that as in our self-interest and as in the public interest. We want to live forever, and we're getting there.

But I think it's quite important also not to forget our responsibilities for basic research in other areas as well. And one of the things that we will come to know as the intersection of your two disciplines, informatics and genomics, come together, then we will have to study even more closely how all this that we know about the human body and its development interacts with changes in the environment.

So other areas of research will be also important, into things like global warming and climate change and the sustainability of the environment. And what I hope we can do is to build a broader consensus, as we look into the new millennium, for the whole research enterprise in those areas where it will never be productive in the beginning, or profitable for people like you, to do the beginning. And then we can find these things, and then the American entrepreneurial genius will take off.

And so I leave here with a renewed commitment to trying to help people like you get started. We may not understand it, those of us in politics, but we have an obligation to help you find it.

And when the first mouse graduates from Princeton, I will invite you both to deliver the commencement address. *[Laughter]*

Thank you, and good evening.

NOTE: The White House Millennium Evening began at 7:35 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to basketball Hall of Famer Wilt Chamberlain; and retired jockey Willie Shoemaker. The discussion was entitled, "Informatics Meets Genomics." The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady, Dr. Cerf, Dr. Lander, Secretary Shalala, Ms. Lovell, Dr. Varmus, and the participants in the question-and-answer portion of the evening. The discussion was cybercast on the Internet.

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THE WHITE HOUSE**Sculpture Garden Reception**[Help](#) [Site Map](#) [Text Only](#)[Go](#)[President & First Lady](#)[Vice President & Mrs. Gore](#)[Record of Progress](#)[The Briefing Room](#)[Gateway to Government](#)[Contacting the White House](#)[White House for Kids](#)[White House History](#)[White House Tours](#)**THE WHITE HOUSE****Office of the Press Secretary**For Immediate Release  
January 5, 1996
**Remarks By First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**  
**at The Sculpture Garden Reception**  
**The White House**

MRS. CLINTON: Please be seated and welcome to the White House. I wish the weather were just a little warmer so we could be out in the garden, but we are so pleased to have you here in the East Room. And I am very sorry that because of the prior government shutdown in November, we were forced to postpone the original opening, and I deeply regret any inconvenience that this necessary but regrettable postponement caused any of you. We are, as you know, in the middle of another partial government shutdown, but thankfully we were able to hold this ceremony because the White House Appropriations Bill was one of those that was passed and the President signed.

But I am happy to report that the exhibit did open in October in glorious weather, and in time for the Arts and Humanities Celebration here at the White House. A thousand or more people saw the exhibit that first day, and thousands and thousands more have been enjoying it during October, November and into December. This is the third in a series of exhibitions of 20th century American sculpture that have been installed at the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden here at the White House. As some of you know this exhibit was inspired in part by Jackie Kennedy Onassis. My much too brief friendship with her left an indelible impression on me, and the garden is a lasting, living tribute to the extraordinary artistic and cultural contributions she

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made to the White House. It became possible because others shared my hope that the White House could be an exhibition place for modern American art as well as the extraordinary White House collection of art that you see around you here in this room with the Gilbert Stewart and in other rooms throughout the house.

I must say that every time I come into the East Room, and particularly on an occasion like this, I am always grateful to another of my predecessors, Dolly Madison. Because it was Dolly Madison during the War of 1812, when James Madison, who was the last of our presidents actually to be Commander in Chief in the field, was out with the troops in 1814, who was here preparing a dinner for her husband and all of the officers who had returned when word came that the British were advancing, had broken through, were on their way to the house. So she, I think in one of the great heroic moments in American history, began to gather up many of the treasures here in the house and took down the Gilbert Stewart portrait of George Washington, rolled it up and escaped right before the British.

I have said this in both Canada, where the commanding general of the British forces was based, and recently in the United Kingdom, that we don't forget -- although we are great friends. And some of you may notice on the front part of the White House we've actually left some of the stone exposed where the burn marks show. And the thing that I do find hard to forgive is that, at least I have been told, the British came into the house, ate the dinner Dolly Madison had prepared and then burned it.

Well, we are still here, and we have survived much over our history. And that is also part of what I had hoped with these exhibits, because they represent the diverse and rich talents of this extraordinary country of ours. I am thrilled that some of the artists whose works are exhibited could be with us today. And I think one only needs to look, and I hope all of you get a chance to look, at the intriguing sculptures in this particular exhibit. They embody the transformations of both 20th century and society. Among them is an abstract sculpture by Georgia O'Keefe, who many of us casual art lovers knew only as a painter. In a house full of wonderful, 200-year-old antiques, it is also a blessing to live amongst objects that represent the era in which we live.

Well, the president and I believe strongly that art should be accessible to everyone, because it has the power to evoke in each of us a deeper



understanding of our lives and of the world around us. This is a particularly difficult and challenging time in Washington and in our country, but art can make our spirits soar and remind us of life's possibilities and of our human powers to imagine and to create. And it gives me great satisfaction that amongst the more than one and a half million American and foreign visitors who walk through this house, the only residence of a head of state open to tourists, that they will be able to share in this artistic exhibition. They walk down through the colonnade, and on a day like this even when it's cold outside where the sun is shining, they can look out and as their standing in line, begin to think about what it means, what their own lives mean. And for me that is a great gift that you have made possible.

This exhibition celebrates the sculptors themselves. Ann Tucker once said, "All art requires is courage." You could amend that and say, "All life requires is courage." But sometimes it is art that displays and embodies that courage for us. So I would like, on behalf of the President and myself, to thank the artists who are featured in this exhibit.

I also want to thank and recognize the people who have made this exhibit and our prior ones possible. It took enormous generosity, dedication, wisdom, planning and just plain hard work to make this happen. Special thanks to Peter Marzio, the director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, and Alison Delema Green, the curator of the Museum of Fine arts in Houston. I also want to say a special word of gratitude to the Iris and B. Gerald Canter Foundation and to my friend Iris Canter who is here. I don't know of any other two Americans who have done more to support and promote the arts and particularly sculpture. The White House is such a richer, more beautiful place because of their generosity. I want also to thank J. Carter Brown, who sheparded this idea that was inchoate, to say the best about it, to fruition. I also want to thank the lending institutions that are acknowledged in the program, the White House Preservation Committee and the White House Historical Association, which are such great partners in promoting and maintaining this house. A special word of thanks to the curator of the White House, Rex Scouton, and his very able and dedicated assistants, the Association of Art Museum Director and its president, Sylvia Williams. All of them deserve certainly, my thanks, but far beyond my thanks, you deserve the thanks of every American whether they see the exhibit or not -- because of what you are doing to keep inspiring us, keep giving us a sense of human possibility.



You know, in this time of great global change and as we approach not only a new century, but a new millennium, with the pace of technological change occurring at a rate far beyond the capacity for human beings to comprehend, let alone understand or adjust to -- art becomes more and more important. It is the very first way one goes back to the cave drawing and the tiny figures of women carved from bone, that people knew they were something in addition to just foragers for food and survivors against the elements. We are a long way in time from those days, but we have the same needs to understand ourselves and to appreciate what stays human despite the changes around us.

And so in this time of change and very difficult adjustments for people, we need art more than ever. So thank you for making that possible for all of us. And now I look forward to greeting you individually in the Blue Room and on to the reception in the State Dining Room. Thank you all very much.

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