

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Office of the Curator
June 1994

THE BLUE ROOM

History

White House architect James Hoban's original plans for the "President's House" noted that the first floor oval room was to be the most elegant of the formal State Rooms. However, it was not until the administration of James Madison that the room was completely furnished.

While John Adams resided in the White House, the room served as a vestibule; its windows opened to wooden stairs which led to the south grounds. Thomas Jefferson used the room as an entrance for ministers and Cabinet officers attending official functions.

After the room was decorated by Dolley Madison and Benjamin Latrobe, it did become the principal formal drawing room of the White House. The Madisons received their guests there on New Year's Day in 1810, and succeeding Presidents and their families continued to hold New Year's Receptions in the room, then called the "Oval Drawing Room."

It was known as the "Elliptical Drawing Room," "Oval Reception Room" and "Circular Room" until the color was changed to blue in 1837 by Martin Van Buren. It then became the "Blue Room," although it was called the "Violet Blue Parlor" during the Grant administration and the "Robin's Egg Blue Room" after Chester Arthur's redecoration.

The room has been the scene of many family celebrations. Two of President Hayes' children were christened there in 1877, and in the following year it served as a setting for the wedding of his niece Emily Platt. In 1886, the only President to be married in the White House, Grover Cleveland, was joined in marriage to his former ward, Frances Folsom, in a Blue Room ceremony. During this century Woodrow Wilson's daughter, Eleanor, and his niece, Alice, took their wedding vows in the Blue Room.

Although special meetings, luncheons, and dinners have been held in the room, throughout the years it has continued to be used for the purpose first intended - the formal reception room of the White House. It is here that the President and his wife often receive guests during State receptions and where the credentials of foreign ambassadors recently have been presented to the President. The first Chinese delegation to present credentials to an American President was received by President Hayes in the Blue Room in 1878. Since 1961 (excepting 1962), the principal White House Christmas tree has been placed in the center of the room.

ARTWORK

North Wall

Boston Harbor by Fitz Hugh Lane (1804-1865)

oil on canvas, 1854. This artist is especially noted for his luminist works from 1850 to 1860.

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lew Wasserman. 963.507.1

William Howard Taft by Anders Zorn (1860-1920), Swedish

oil on canvas, 1911. Painted at the White House.

President Taft is depicted in the Blue Room, seated in one of the 1902 armchairs, against the dark blue cloth-covered wall and white woodwork of the Theodore Roosevelt Renovation.

U.S. Government purchase. 912.1415.1

Baltimore Harbor by Fitz Hugh Lane (1804-1865)

oil on canvas, 1850. One of two maritime works painted by the artist during a visit to Baltimore in 1850.

On loan from Sheldon Arpad. L70.38.1

East Wall

James Monroe by Samuel Finley Breese Morse (1791-1872)

oil on canvas, c.1819. Morse, an artist and inventor, stayed at the White House in 1819 and painted a bust-length likeness of Monroe used later by the artist to create a full-length portrait, commissioned by the City of Charleston. The Monroe family ordered a head study which is believed to be this portrait.

Gift of Michael Straight. 965.587.1

South Wall

Elizabeth Kortright Monroe (Mrs. James Monroe)

attributed to John Vanderlyn (1775-1852)

oil on canvas, 1816 or 1820. Vanderlyn also painted portraits of James Monroe.

On loan from Thomas J. and William K. Edwards. L74.88.1

James Madison by John Vanderlyn (1775-1852)

oil on canvas, 1816. Commissioned by James Monroe, Madison's Secretary of State and a friend of the artist; descended in the Monroe family.

Gift of Mrs. Vincent Astor, the George Brown Foundation, Inc., The Charles W. Engelhard Foundation, The Ruth P. Field Fund, Inc., Laurence Rockefeller, and the White House Historical Association. 968.627.1

South Wall (continued)

Thomas Jefferson by Rembrandt Peale (1778-1860)

oil on canvas, 1800. Life portrait painted in Philadelphia while Jefferson was Vice President. Became the prototype for many American and European engravings and the most popular 19th century image of Jefferson.

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon.

962.395.1

John Adams by John Trumbull (1756-1843)

oil on canvas, c.1792-93. Painted while Adams was Vice President, commissioned by Chief Justice John Jay; only life portrait of the first president to live in the White House.

Gift of the White House Historical Association. 986.1582.1

West Wall

John Tyler by George P.A. Healy (1813-1894)

oil on canvas, 1859. Based on an earlier life portrait. Documents on table illustrate his administration's accomplishments, notably, ratification of the Northeastern Boundary Treaty, the annexation of Texas, and a treaty of peace with China. Crumpled in his left hand, is a copy of the National Intelligencer, suggesting his displeasure with what had been the administration's official paper.

U.S. Government purchase.

859.1403.1

FURNISHINGS

North Wall

CONSOLE TABLES, pair, gilded wood and marble, late 18th century, Paris, attributed to Georges Jacob.
Demilune; marble top; floral urn on stretcher.
Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.857.1-2

East Wall

SIDE TABLE, one of pair (with table on west wall), painted and gilded wood, c.1787-1790, England.
Combination of influences, probably by a French Huguenot artisan in England; apron panel painted with cherubs complements plaques in wallpaper border.
Lent by the Corcoran Gallery of Art. L72.71.1-2

PUNCH BOWL, one of pair, (with bowl on west wall table), porcelain, c.1735-1750, Chinese Export.
"Famille rose" decoration of deer and floral branches.
Gift of the White House Historical Association. 972.870.1-2

ARGAND LAMPS, pair, cut glass and brass, c.1810-1815, England.
Originally oil-burning with brighter, more smoke-free flame; cut glass casing of oil font.
Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.836.1-2

SEAT FURNITURE, gilded beechwood, c.1917, Paris, made by Pierre-Antoine Bellange. Four armchairs (usually flanking fireplace), one bergere (larger armchair with closed arms - in center window well), and sofa (west wall), were part of a suite purchased for the "large oval room" by President James Monroe in 1817. Although Monroe had ordered mahogany furniture, the purchasing agents in France substituted gilded furniture. The set originally contained 18 armchairs, 18 side chairs, 2 sofas, 2 bergeres, 4 stools, 6 footstools, 2 screens, and 1 pier table. It remained in the Blue Room until 1860, at which time all but the pier table now in the Entrance Hall was sold at auction by President James Buchanan and replaced with Victorian furniture.

Armchairs:	Gift of Miss Catherine Bohlen.	961.14.1
	Gift of National Society of Colonial	
	Dames of the XVII Century.	963.510.1
	Anonymous donation.	973.950.1 & 973.956.1
Bergere:	Anonymous donation.	972.838.1
Sofa:	Gift of the Edison Institute.	979.1394.1

East Wall (continued)

- GUERIDON (circular table), gilded bronze and marble,
late 18th century, Paris, stamp of Adam Weisweiler.
By a German craftsman in Paris who was patronized by
Queen Marie Antoinette.
Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.861.1
- OCCASIONAL TABLE, mahogany and marble, late 18th century, France.
Oblong; marble top; brass trim.
Gift of John Loeb. 962.447.1
- MANTEL, marble, c.1810-1815, probably France.
Stylized caryatids suggestive of the 1817 mantels in the
Green and Red Rooms; on frieze, head of Medusa, whose face
would turn the beholder to stone.
Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.850.1
- FIREBACK, cast iron, c.1812, marked
"Mark Richards/Philad[elphia]".
Decorated with starburst rosettes.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Edward V. Jones. 972.856.1
- ANDIRONS, pair, brass, c.1883, American.
Urn with ring-turned finial with ball tip; double block
plinth; spurred cabriole legs on ball-and-claw feet.
Acquired for the Blue Room during the Tiffany redecoration.
U.S. Government purchase. 883.1990.1-2
- FIRE TOOLS (shovel and tongs), brass and iron, c.1790-1800,
probably New York.
Acorn finials.
Gift of the White House Historical Association. 980.1432.3-4
- FIRE SCREEN, brass and iron, c.1800, American.
Three-fold.
Gift of the White House Historical Association. 980.1434.1
- FRUIT COOLERS, pair, porcelain, c.1824, France.
Initials "WCE" for Governor William C. Eustis of
Massachusetts, to whom they were presented by the Marquis de
Lafayette during his visit to the United States, 1824-1825.
Gift of Grafton Minot. 962.311.1-2
- MANTEL CLOCK, gilded bronze, c.1817, Paris,
case made by Deniere et Matelin.
Figure of the Carthaginian general, Hannibal (247-183 or
182 B.C.) with plaques commemorating his victories over the
Romans.
Among the French furnishings purchased by President James
Monroe in 1817; designated for the "Sitting room or Parlor"
(Red Room). 817.1362.1

East Wall (continued)

LOOKING GLASS, gilded wood and glass, c.1815, probably New York. Eglomise (reverse-painted glass) side panels and upper panel with eagle. Suggestive of overmantel mirror (a drawing survives) designed for this room by Benjamin Latrobe during the Madison administration but destroyed in the fire of 1814.

Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.859.1

SCONCES, two pairs (with pair on west wall), bronze and gilded bronze, c.1835, France.

Griffin torso; set with entirely gilded pair in East Room; bear stamp of King Louis-Philippe's Chateau de Neuilly.

Anonymous donation. 962.245.3-6

South Wall

TORCHERES, pair, bronze and gilded bronze, c.1810, France.

Winged female figure holding urn with eleven light arms.

Anonymous donation. 962.245.1-2

SIDE CHAIRS, four, gilded wood, 1962, American.

Reproductions of original Bellange chairs, from set of eleven placed in the Blue Room in 1962 and gradually replaced with original chairs as re-acquired.

Gift of Charles Francis Adams. 962.179.8-11

CONSOLE TABLES, pair, gilded wood and marble,

.1 - late 18th century, France, .2 - later reproduction.

Bowed pierced center; marble top.

Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.858.1-2

URNS, pair, porcelain, early 19th century, France.

Gilt; entwined dolphins as cover finial.

Gift of Nicholas Feuillotte. 962.407.1-2

West Wall

SIDE TABLE, one of pair (see east wall), painted and gilded wood, c.1785-1790. L72.71.1-2

PUNCH BOWL, one of a pair (see east wall), porcelain, c.1735-1750, Chinese Export.

972.870.1-2

ARGAND LAMPS, pair, cut glass and brass, late 18th century,

London, made by Johnston, Brookes & Co.

Diamond-cut spheres as font and pedestal.

Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.864.1-2

OCCASIONAL TABLES, pair, mahogany and marble, late 18th century, France.

Oblong; marble top; brass trim.

Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.860.1-2

West Wall (continued)

BOUILLOTTE LAMPS, pair, gilded bronze, c.1790-1800, France.
Gift of John Loeb. 962.445.1-2

SOFA, (see east wall), gilded beechwood, c.1817, Paris,
made by Bellange.
Curved frame to accommodate contour of the wall.

ARMCHAIRS, two, gilded wood, 1962, American.
Reproductions of original Bellange chairs, from set of
eleven placed in the Blue Room in 1962 and gradually
replaced with original chairs as re-acquired.
Gift of Charles Francis Adams. 962.179.3,.5

Center

CENTER TABLE, mahogany and marble, c.1817, France.
Circular; white marble top.
Among the furnishings purchased by President James Monroe in
1817; designated for the "Sitting room or Parlor" (Red Room).
817.170.1

PUNCH BOWL, porcelain, c.1760, Chinese Export.
"Famille rose" decoration.
White House Acquisition Fund. 971.691.1

CHANDELIER, gilded wood and cut glass, c.1815-1820, France.
Eighteen light arms on ring with palmettes; feather crown.
Gift of J. Lloyd Hyde. 962.249.1

CHINESE RUG, wool, c.1850, Peking.
Oval, made for a French palace with Oriental adaptation of a
European pattern.
Gift of the Janet A. Hooker Charitable Trust. 975.1149.1

WALLPAPER, silk-screened paper, 1972, American.
Reproduction of a French Directoire paper, c.1800;
original panels and screens from which this paper was
made are the exclusive property of the White House.
Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.853.1

BLUE ROOM REFURBISHING

The Blue Room refurbishing (the first since 1972) is being governed by the historic French objects purchased by President James Monroe for the room in 1817. These objects were used in the room until 1860 when they were sold at auction in Washington. Beginning in the Kennedy administration, eight objects (seven chairs and the sofa) have been returned to the room. These objects and the looking glass over the mantel are receiving conservation treatment while the room is closed.

Because the draperies and upholstery fabrics were worn and soiled and needed to be replaced, the Committee for the Preservation of the White House decided to refurbish the room.

The blue color of the fabrics selected by the Committee is in the tradition of the blues used in the room in the past as well as in the French Empire period. The upholstery fabric retains the eagle medallion of the previous fabric. This design was adapted from one of the Monroe era Blue Room chairs which appears in a portrait of James Monroe, now in City Hall in New York.

The draperies, in the same color blue as the upholstery but with a blue and gold galloon, will retain the same design as the previous draperies which were derived from early 19th century French design sources.

The wallpaper borders are adapted from two early 19th century French papers in the collection of the Cooper Hewitt National Museum of Design in New York. (French papers were used in the White House throughout the early 19th century.) The upper border is a blue drapery swag with gold borders; the lower border along the chair rail is a blue and gold pattern with rosettes. The ground of the paper is gold with darker gold motifs throughout. It is adapted from an American paper (copied from a French paper) in the collection of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities in Boston.

A carpet based on early 19th century designs is being manufactured for the room. (The 19th century Chinese carpet which was in the room was badly worn and had to be replaced.) The new carpet will be installed in April.

The room is being painted and gilded to correspond with an American room of the early 19th century. The acanthus leaves of the cornice and in the center ceiling medallion are being gilded. (There is documentation of architectural gilding in the White House as early as 1817 (in the Cross Hall) and 1830 (the East Room). The chair rails and door surrounds will be painted white with a rubbed paint finish giving the wood a "porcelain" finish. The faux marble paint on the baseboards has been removed to reveal the original white marble installed in the Truman era.

The White House Endowment Fund

SUMMARY PROFILE OF WHITE HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND

January, 1995

Range	Private	Corporate	Foundation
\$1,000,000	1	0	1
\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	0	0	2
\$250,000 - \$500,000	2	0	1
\$100,000 - \$250,000	7	5	6
\$50,000 - \$100,000	2	13	0
\$25,000 - \$50,000	3	12	4
\$10,000 - \$25,000	3	6	8
\$5,000 - \$10,000	9	10	2
\$2,500 - \$5,000	3	2	0
\$1,000 - \$2,500	21	1	0

Type	Amount	Percentage
Contributions:		
Private	\$2.5m	36%
Corporate	\$1.6m	23%
Foundation	\$2.9m	41%
Sub-Total	\$7.0m	100%
Other revenue:		
Commemorative Coin	\$5.0m	
Total	\$12.0m	

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URNS, pair, porcelain, early 19th century, France.

Gilt; entwined dolphins as cover finial.

Gift of Nicholas Feuillotte. 962.407.1-2

West Wall

SIDE TABLE, one of pair (see east wall), painted and gilded wood, c.1785-1790. L72.71.1-2

PUNCH BOWL, one of a pair (see east wall), porcelain, c.1735-1750, Chinese Export.

972.870.1-2

ARGAND LAMPS, pair, cut glass and brass, late 18th century,

London, made by Johnston, Brookes & Co.

Diamond-cut spheres as font and pedestal.

Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.864.1-2

OCCASIONAL TABLES, pair, mahogany and marble, late 18th century, France.

Oblong; marble top; brass trim.

Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.860.1-2

West Wall (continued)

BOUILLOTTE LAMPS, pair, gilded bronze, c.1790-1800, France.
Gift of John Loeb. 962.445.1-2

SOFA, (see east wall), gilded beechwood, c.1817, Paris,
made by Bellange.
Curved frame to accommodate contour of the wall.

ARMCHAIRS, two, gilded wood, 1962, American.
Reproductions of original Bellange chairs, from set of
eleven placed in the Blue Room in 1962 and gradually
replaced with original chairs as re-acquired.
Gift of Charles Francis Adams. 962.179.3,.5

Center

CENTER TABLE, mahogany and marble, c.1817, France.
Circular; white marble top.
Among the furnishings purchased by President James Monroe in
1817; designated for the "Sitting room or Parlor"(Red Room).
817.170.1

PUNCH BOWL, porcelain, c.1760, Chinese Export.
"Famille rose" decoration.
White House Acquisition Fund. 971.691.1

CHANDELIER, gilded wood and cut glass, c.1815-1820, France.
Eighteen light arms on ring with palmettes; feather crown.
Gift of J. Lloyd Hyde. 962.249.1

CHINESE RUG, wool, c.1850, Peking.
Oval, made for a French palace with Oriental adaptation of a
European pattern.
Gift of the Janet A. Hooker Charitable Trust. 975.1149.1

WALLPAPER, silk-screened paper, 1972, American.
Reproduction of a French Directoire paper, c.1800;
original panels and screens from which this paper was
made are the exclusive property of the White House.
Gift of the Janet Neff Charitable Trust. 972.853.1

April 5, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR MAGGIE WILLIAM

FROM: Capricia Marshall

RE: Residence Renovations

As you requested, I have investigated the past and current status of White House preservation and restoration as it relates to the issues behind the current magnitude, expediency and cost of the renovations being completed by the Clinton Family.

- I. Introduction
- II. General Financing Information
- III. Historical Perspective of Prior Renovations
- IV. The Clinton Renovation Plan
- V. Concerns/Recommendations

I. INTRODUCTION

Weekly approximately 30,000 people visit the White House and many more attend social and official functions. 25,000 people alone pass through the entire White House for the winter holiday season. A great deal of deterioration results from this high level of traffic. It is the duty of the residents of the White House to maintain the structural integrity and preserve its proper historical condition. Significant renovations are therefore a necessity every ten years or so.

Preservation of the White House, unfortunately, was not a priority with many former First Families. Either believing that they were not responsible for its maintenance or fearful of the press calculating expenditures and applying political pressure, they often opted to do nothing. Consequently, the expenses needed to properly refurbish and conserve the White House were not invested. The White House was not devoted proper attention until 1948 with President Truman, who perceived it his duty to repair the home to a condition that the public could proudly call their own. President Truman believed the Executive Residence was

above politics and should not submit to the underlying calculations of the press. Truman saved the White House from near collapse and due to his belief in this monument, it stands today structurally sound.

Although the exterior of the White House is physically stable, the interior needs urgent attention. Twelve years have passed since substantial care has been given to the interior of the White House. Mrs. Clinton undertook the duty to review the condition of the White House and determined with the assistance of others what repairs were needed immediately.

Mrs. Clinton's goal was to use only furniture from the Executive Residence storage thus minimizing costs although several purchases were necessary (Chelsea's extra-long beds). As well, certain pieces were relocated throughout the house. Quite a few pieces of the furniture were in obvious need of upholstery repair, so decisions were made to replace the old fabrics. Many designers and manufacturers donated fabrics as well as other materials and accessories to assist the Clintons with their new beginning.

The following is a detailed analysis of the history behind previous renovations and the plan the Clintons have developed to preserve the historic essence of the White House.

II. Financing

A. Congressional Appropriations

Congress appropriates \$50,000 to each new administration for any restorations and renovations the First Family needs to effect. Most First Families chose not to use the allotted money and to instead privately raise funds through the White House Historical Association which makes the funds available for any remodeling deemed necessary.

B. The White House Historical Association

Mrs. Kennedy established the White House Historical Association ("Association") to enhance the historical significance of the White House through use of furnishings of former Presidents and distribution of educational materials. The Association provided an avenue free of political influence through which gifts and donations could be given and received without conflicts of interest.

After Mrs. Kennedy, both Mrs. Nixon and Mrs. Reagan privately raised funds through the White House Historical Association to finance extensive renovations.

Procedurally, the White House Historical Association accepts checks that are made payable directly to them. The check must be accompanied by a letter to disclose the manner in which the donor wishes the money to be used. The funds are kept in an account handled by the Association. Accounting books are also kept at the White House. All bills sent in search of payment for the renovations are directed to the White House Historical Association. All donations are tax deductible. Traditionally, a cap has been placed on all funds accepted by the Association. The usual amount has been \$10,000 per person. The White House Committee will decide the amount this year. The donors are recognized publicly through various press releases.

1. Process for all appropriated funds

- a. The Executive Office of the President

Usually the Deputy Assistant to the President for Administration prepares a certificate of accounting which, in written form, gives to the Chief Usher the authority to administer all appropriated funds for the Executive Residence.

- C. The Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is the re-creation of a former fundraising project, The White House Preservation Fund, that failed. After twelve years of fundraising, this original White House Preservation Fund amassed only \$560,000. After only two years, The Endowment Fund has already collected \$12,500,000 in income and investments for future refurbishment of the White House. The income is available for present repairs and restoration, yet according to the original agreement, the corpus should not be touched until the twenty-five million dollar goal is reached.

The Endowment Fund Committee is associated with The White House Historical Association and performs fundraising duties only. The members do not determine any changes or have any associations with the President in an advisory capacity. The funds they collect will go directly to the White House Historical Association to be administered by the First Family and the Committee for the Preservation of the White House regarding all remodeling. Through the raising of private funds, the beauty and history of the White House can continue.

III. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE WHITE HOUSE

Sufficient attention to the structure and details was not a priority with many prior Presidents. Historically, renovations to the White House were primarily made in response to destruction or depreciation. Only after the structure was brought into the modern age, could concern be shifted to the interior decor as it reflects historical theme and purpose. The White House has been scrutinized from various architectural viewpoints, yet the uniform belief is that its grandeur remain to exemplify the power and greatness of our nation.

1. Original Construction

In 1792 the cornerstone of the White House was laid by President Washington. The layout of the White House was completed by James Hoban, who designed it to assimilate an Irish manor, Leinster House. The original plans of the White House attempted to capture the spirit of the times. President Washington worked closely with architects to fuse the home of the President into a functional estate which would create a cultural and financial center for the country as well as provide for the political headquarters. This is the sense still maintained today. The White House was not occupied until 1800 by John Adams and the cost of its construction was \$232,371.83.

2. Synopsis of Subsequent Renovations:

a. After the British burned the entire interior of the White House in 1814, President Monroe had the House rebuilt from 1815-1817 for \$236,490. Monroe's efforts though in attempting to replace rather than revive left the White House structurally unsound to withstand the wear and tear it would take over the years.

b. President Theodore Roosevelt also made extensive renovations to the House. He very carefully attempted to apply the materials and techniques used by Hoban and made several cosmetic changes, moving the staircase from The State Room to the East Hall. Yet, again little structural support work was provided. Roosevelt used the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White and the renovations cost \$343,945.

c. Although minor renovations took place by Presidents following Theodore Roosevelt, no renovations were attempted during President Franklin Roosevelt's 12 years. Not until 1948 were any major renovations again made in the White House. To the dismay of many architectural historians, the original design and structure was slowly deteriorating, the extent of which became strikingly apparent to President

Truman when Margaret Truman's piano leg penetrated the second floor. Major renovations were then begun under the direction of the Trumans upon moving to Blair House. President Truman cleverly built the new interior from within the original George Washington facade so that the press could not discover the extent of the renovations being completed during a time when the President asked Americans to tighten their belts.

Unfortunately, the politics of the impending war with Japan forced the President to cut short many of the repairs, specifically the proper interior decor. Instead of decisions being made through the proper historian, they were made by others with only function in mind. Much of the original workmanship and concepts were consequently lost.

d. A long period of time passed before any renovations were again begun. Mrs. Kennedy, a lover of history and art, assumed an overwhelming responsibility to return the White House to its former historic grandeur. Although the Truman rebuilding gave the house secure floors and walls, the sense of history within each room had faded. Mrs. Kennedy brought back many of the antiques, refinished a great deal of the furniture and re-created many of the original moldings. She also created the White House Historical Association and The Committee for the Preservation of the White House to allow a framework through which ongoing attention to this important aspect of White House residence could be maintained.

e. Ten years spanned before the First Family once again directed its energy to the upkeep of the White House interior. In 1971, Mrs. Pat Nixon took a great deal of time to collect more of the antiques which dated to the time of each particular room. She also refurbished the blue room, in great need of repair, in the materials and fabrics of the original french design.

f. Again, 10 years later - 1981- the House was once again in need of a face lift. Remembering that not every first lady is capable of completely remodeling all rooms, each concentrated on a particular area, adding her own touches. Mrs. Reagan made several very important additions at this time including restoration of furniture, doors, hardwood floors and replacement of drapes, and carpets.

It is obvious how over time the White House can deteriorate unless a consistent investment of time and effort is made to preserve it. The First Family must organize and direct the residence staff in daily cleaning, provide input for the engineers to maintain the functional operations of the White House and work jointly with the ushers and curators to determine what needs are demanding of the interior. Renovations have been and will continue to be necessary and it is the DUTY of each first family to keep the House in good repair.

IV. The Clinton's Renovation Plan

It has now been 12 years since the White House has had any major renovations. Understanding the overwhelming needs the house, Mrs. Clinton first established a committee for White House renovations consisting of Interior Designer Mrs. Kaki Hockersmith, White House Chief Usher Mr. Gary Walters, White House Curator Mr. Rex Scouten, and First Lady Chief of Staff Ms. Maggie Williams to help to determine the best path on which to proceed.

A. Funding

1. Congressional appropriation

The \$50,000 congressional appropriation was spent to allow the refurbishing process to begin while accounts for private donations were established. The White House Committee in conjunction with the White House Historical Association needs to establish the proper financial accounts, direct all donors to send letters of intent with their donations, keep records of each donation and recognize publicly all donations unless the donor requests to remain anonymous. Return acknowledgment of the donation will be sent as the donation is received. As private donations arrive the congressional appropriation account will be replenished.

2. The Presidential Inaugural Committee

The actual funds that have been donated to the White House Historical Association with the current administration were excess funds from The Presidential Inaugural Committee. The Committee voted that certain amounts should be released to be used for any costs incurred by the White House for remodeling and refurbishing. The amounts were released to the White House Historical Association, which created the proper bank account for the funds earmarking them for the refurbishment of the White House for President and Mrs. Clinton.

B. Proceedings of the plan

1. Expediency

President and Mrs. Clinton proceeded with the remodeling plans with the use of the Congressional appropriation before all funds were secured from the

Presidential Inaugural Committee and private funding sources with the following considerations in mind:

a. The President and Mrs. Clinton sought to minimize the period of disruption necessarily associated with renovation as having things in order quicker would help with the adjustment to their new surroundings.

b. The issues confronting President Clinton upon taking office, particularly the economy and health care reform, have created a sense of urgency for action and would be managed more easily and efficiently with the timely completion of the private residence.

c. The quality of the repairs and additions is held to a very high standard and the time required to arrange for the proper employment of quality personnel and material in the renovation process necessitated prompt action after taking residence of the White House. This would in turn avoid procedural delays had the First Family waited for the completion of fundraising.

d. Since official meetings and entertaining for dignitaries and other special guests traditionally take place on the second and third floors of the White House, the President was unable to offer these functions in the condition of the residence prior to renovation.

C. Room Prioritization

In determining that time was of the essence, Mrs. Clinton reviewed each room and prioritized needs accordingly. Knowing that each room had its own particular function and historical significance, she attempted to blend the needs of her family with the history and former purposes of the rooms.

1. Public Area

A special focus will be placed in these areas as these rooms are always in the public eye through tours, social events and normal use of the house.

a. The Blue Room

This room is considered one of the most formal rooms in the house and as such is used extensively for receptions and teas. Heavy traffic over the years has taken its toll and created the need for

considerable remodeling. The room is currently under consideration for new draperies, carpets, upholsteries and wallpaper. The Committee for the Preservation of the White House has started to review materials that coordinate with the French Empire style of the room.

b. The East Room

There are functional as well as architectural deficiencies within the East Room which detract from its ability to accommodate usual uses and accurately reflect historical perspective. Many press conferences and receptions are held in the East Room where the bare floors cause an echo effect providing for poor sound dynamics during television and radio broadcasts. Several carpets are needed to muffle sound for this purpose. From an architectural perspective, many changes made in the late 1940's did not recapture the essence of Hoban's original etched marble ideal. As mentioned above, Mrs. Kennedy began renovation along these lines and Mrs. Clinton, in conjunction with the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, would like to reinvigorate these efforts to recapture the intent of the original architect. The mantel and sideboards within the room all need replacement marble construction as the present finish is inferior in quality and style. Also, the walls are in need of repainting.

c. The Cross Hall, Entrance Hall and Grand Staircase

The first impressions a person receives upon entering the White House are those presented at the grand entrance and staircase. Unfortunately this area is frequented more than any other in the House. These sections are in great need of new carpets and new draperies for maintenance considerations.

d. The Library

This is the only official library in the White House. It functions not only to house a representative selection of American authors, but also as a warm, inviting atmosphere for interviews or meetings with special guests. Currently, basic maintenance in this room requires only new chair upholstery.

e. The Map Room

The map room has great historical significance. It was once the situation room where maps were analyzed and military strategy devised. There

are several pieces of 18th century furniture present in the room that are in need of reupholstering.

2. Private Quarters

Over the years, less attention has been given to the private quarters of the House. In 1981, Mrs. Reagan refurnished some furniture, reupholstered and redecorated. Yet, the normal wear and tear from visitors, children, grandchildren and pets have made apparent the extensive deterioration in the current residence.

Historically, each first family has changed the arrangement of the second and third floors to suit their family's lifestyle. For instance, the room the Clintons now use as their bedroom was used by Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Truman as their sitting rooms. The kitchen upstairs was Mrs. Cleveland's sitting room and Margaret Truman's bedroom. The upstairs dining room was used as President and Mrs. McKinley's bedroom, and Helen Taft's bedroom as a study by the Eisenhowers. The Treaty Room was used as an office by President Harrison, a library and study by President Taft, and a sitting room by President Hoover. The needs and preferences of the First Family dictate how each room is to be used.

After much deliberation, the Clintons decided to not change the function of any room though minor alterations were made to suit the First Family's lifestyle and to address maintenance needs.

a. The 2nd Floor Hallway

Previous condition:

- * Carpets were worn and spotted
- * Drapes are still hanging and sun stained
- * Wallpaper is stained and faded yet still hanging
- * Upholstery - 2 old slip covers were on top of very ragged 1970's upholstery

Changes Made:

Mrs. Clinton's desire was to bring the hall area to a condition which would allow ~~the area~~ to be used for entertaining guests without investing an exorbitant amount of money. Immediately, all carpets were removed from the 2nd floor and placed on the third floor. Mrs. Clinton decided to keep the drapes and wallpaper currently in the Hall as to replace either would be an extraordinary cost at this time. Mrs. Clinton replaced the chairs with several ^{new} from the Oval Office and had them reupholstered. She kept the couch which was previously purchased by Lady Bird Johnson and had it reupholstered, ~~also~~.

b. The Family Kitchen

Previous condition:

- *The wall coverings were dated, dark and dreary
- *The undercurtains and drapes were faded
- *Large wood island - served no present purpose
- *Flooring was pock marked and permanently scuffed

Changes Made:

The kitchen's function in the past has ranged from a sitting room for Mrs. McKinley to a butler's pantry dating back to President Kennedy. Mrs. Clinton has since remodeled it into a functioning family kitchen. The drab wallpaper was replaced with a cheery blue and white print. The curtains and drapes were replaced as well. The large wood island was removed and an expandable table was put in its place. New linoleum was laid. The Clintons' personal everyday china is used for family meals instead of the formal presidential china as used by former First Families.

c. The Treaty Room

Previous condition:

- *The paint on the walls was faded and the color did not coordinate with the new design
- *Furniture - old pieces did not coordinate with historical theme
- *Furniture - the upholstery of the replacement pieces was extremely worn
- *Drapes, though in relatively good condition, dated back to Nixon, who used them for a short time. They were then taken from storage by President Bush, but do not coordinate with the new room design.
- *The Resolute desk was present (but now moved to the Oval Office)

Changes made:

President Clinton has always had a strong interest in history. Returning the room to its official, historically accurate state, yet allowing for a functioning office is the President's desire. The infamy of this room dates back to 1865 when Andrew Jackson used it as his cabinet room. Many decisions and events of great importance took place there. There is also logistical significance to the Treaty Room with regard to the proximity of the Queens' and Lincoln bedrooms. Historically, many past presidents who used the room as an office or as a cabinet room would have many late night meetings there with heads of state who slept in the nearby guest rooms. Churchill, for instance, always slept in the Queens' bedroom.

The Treaty Room is considered formal enough for dignitaries and other important guests, yet not as

stilted as the Oval Office allowing for late night meetings in a comfortable and convenient setting. With this in mind, President Truman restructured the formal entrance to the east end of the second floor. He felt that upon entering the second floor a grand room should await the dignitary and that they should not pass through the private quarters of the home.

The room was named the Treaty Room by President and Mrs. Kennedy and the original treaty table, which was created by Grant (absent when President Clinton took office), was used for the signing of the various historical treaties: the signing of the Peace Protocol under President McKinley, the signing of the Ramification of the Treaty for a Partial Nuclear Test Ban by President Kennedy and the signing of the Ramification of the Treaty on the Limitation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems by President Nixon. The table will once again take its original place. As well, The Signing of the Peace Protocol painting will once again hang in the room as a remembrance of the peace proclaimed by the Spaniards and The United States. Drapes, which reflect the historical ambiance a room of the late 1800's might have, were added along with new dark stained mahogany book cabinets to keep a warm feeling in the room. The other items were all gathered from within the residence. Each piece properly dates to the late 1800's. Many of the chairs were gathered from storage or the map room and re-upholstered to reflect the same historical perspective.

President and Mrs. Clinton put forth an emphasis of history and function in this room. They have worked hard at rebuilding the room to its prior elegance and historic significance.

d.The Solarium

Previous condition:

- *Drapes and upholstery dated to President Nixon and were quite worn
- *Wallpaper- residual stains from past water leaks
- *Carpeting- worn, but no apparent damage

Changes Made:

The glass encased solarium is a place on the third floor where the family can enjoy the incredible view of downtown Washington and the historic monuments. All of the items found in this room have been donated. The room has been used extensively by some first families and not at all by others. The room has not had anything done to it since Mrs. Nixon.

It is a room that the Clinton family has already utilized extensively and would like to make a bit homier and more useful. They have many buffet dinners there with friends because of the convenience of space, the view and the comfort afterwards of collapsing on the sofas for a late night video.

New drapes and matching upholstery are being installed. The new wallpaper is light and airy. Mrs. Clinton decided not to invest in new carpeting at this time.

e. The Exercise Room:

Previous Condition:

- *The room was only used as a massage room
- *The wallpaper was worn
- *There was no carpet only wood floors
- *No real drapes existed
- *Exercise equipment was spread throughout the White House

Changes made:

Fitness is obviously important to the First Family. The President and the First Lady jog everyday and Chelsea practices ballet. Former Presidents have had an exercise room in various locations throughout the White House. President Reagan used an entire room on the second floor for his exercise facility. The Bush family moved the equipment to the third floor. The Clintons have enlarged the third floor area to include the once used massage room as part of the exercise room. They moved equipment to the exercise room that was scattered throughout the complex .

NOTE: The following will not be noted on any official tour so this review is cursory at best.

f. The Bedroom:

Previous condition:

- *The wallpaper was dated and faded
- *The drapes as well were worn and faded.
- *New paint was needed on all baseboards and the ceiling

Changes made:

The wallpaper was removed and new wallpaper will be hung. The wallpaper will be preserved in case there is a need for its future use. Several pieces of the Clinton's personal furniture were reupholstered. Mrs. Clinton's study had the very faded wallpaper removed and the walls were painted and new drapes hung to match. Several pieces of furniture were reupholstered in there as well.

g. The Family Room

Previous condition:

- *The Drapes were worn and sun stained
- *The furniture was dated
- *The wall coverings were faded

Changes made:

Mrs. Clinton decided to remove the old drapes and replace them with drapes that resembled the previous style. She has mainly personal pieces of furniture in this room with the balance being pieces from the White House collection which were reupholstered prior to placement. Wall coverings are to be replaced at a later date.

h. Chelsea's room

Previous condition:

- *The beds were not the proper size
- *The paint on the walls was faded and dated
- *The carpet was worn and dated

Changes made:

The walls were painted and her furniture from home was re-upholstered. New beds were ordered. New carpets were laid to match the ensemble. Mrs. Clinton's focus was to make her rooms cozy and as homey as possible so that dealing with the relocation would be easier for Chelsea.

3. The Workmanship

President and Mrs. Clinton agreed to use only White House carpenters and painters. All overtime will be compensated through private funds. Expediency required that one small crew be brought in to complete the wallcoverings in the Treaty Room.

Attachment D

*The White House Endowment Fund**Board of Directors*

4

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