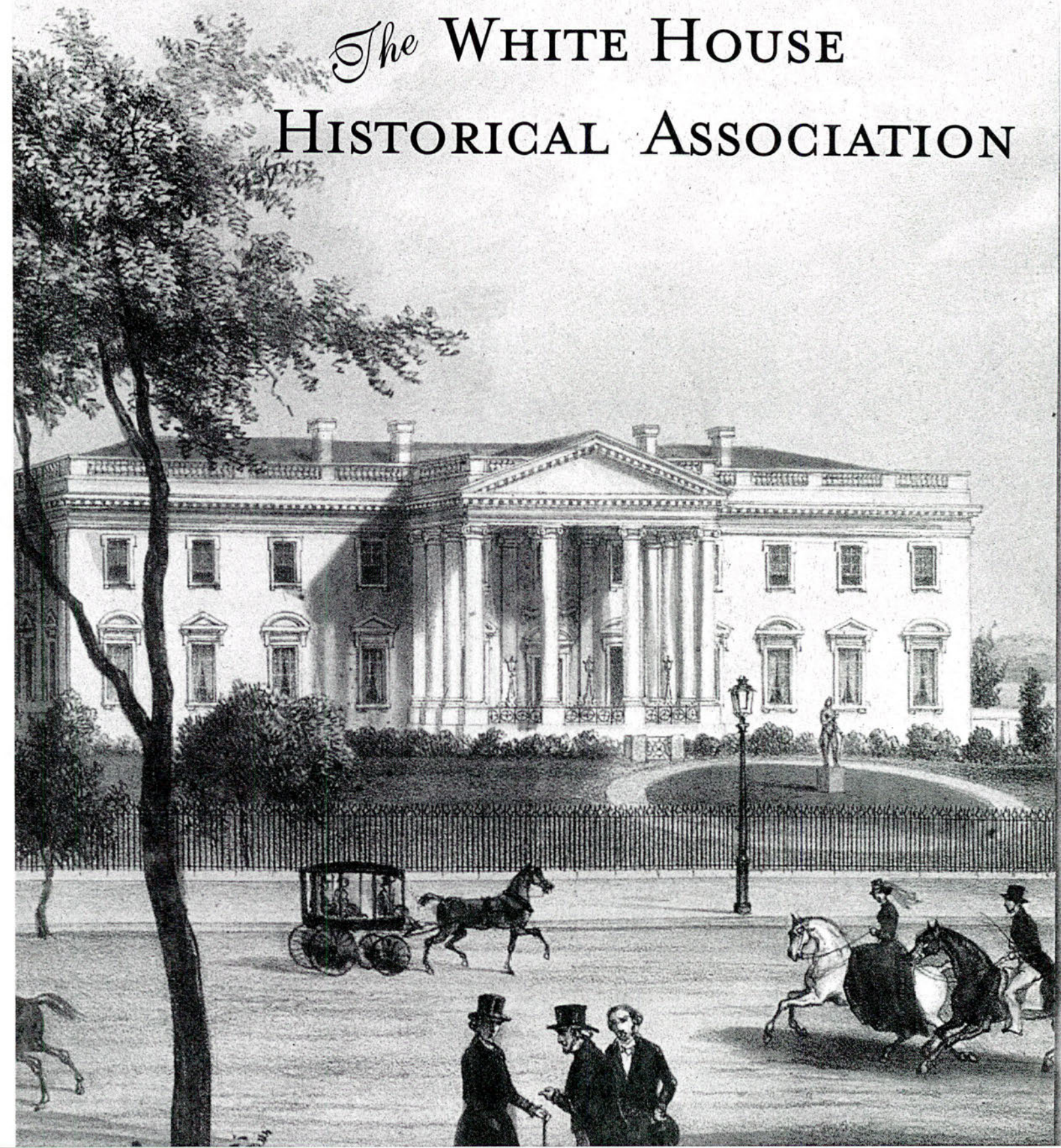


PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



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.

INSCRIBED ON THE STATE DINING ROOM MANTEL, THIS EXCERPT FROM
JOHN ADAMS'S LETTER TO HIS WIFE, ABIGAIL, WAS WRITTEN IN NOVEMBER 1800
ON THE SECOND NIGHT A PRESIDENT OCCUPIED THE WHITE HOUSE.



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 19th 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 20th 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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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 200th 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 200th 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.

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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

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 24th 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.

- 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 200th anniversary.

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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

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 2nd floor, there are 16 rooms, one main corridor, six bathrooms, and one restroom.
 - ❖ On the 3rd floor, there are 20 rooms, one main corridor, and nine bathrooms.

Chair [bedrooms - 12 bed
16 bathrooms] ### } living quarters



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 68th 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

About the White House Historical Association

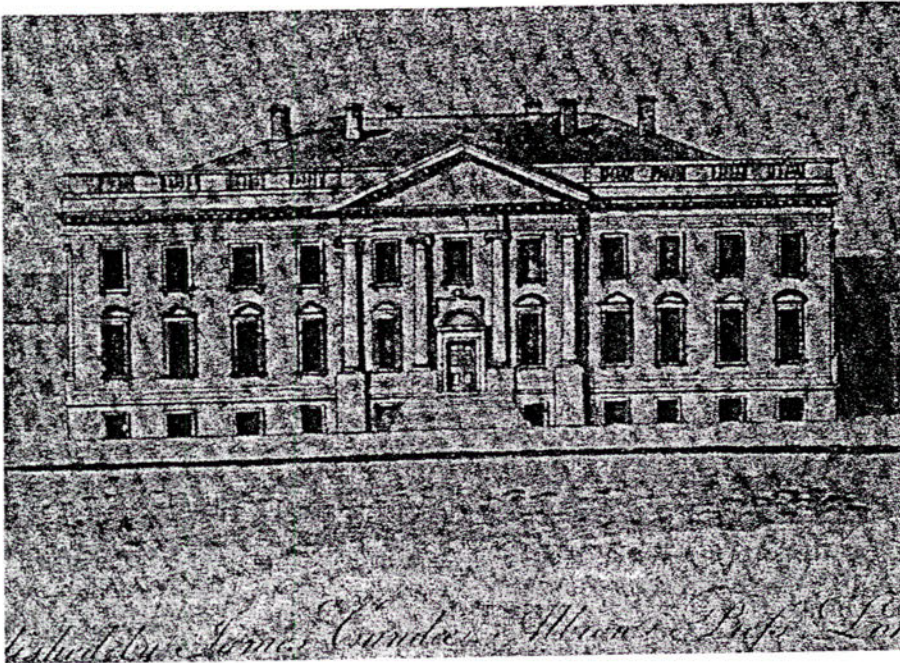
The White House Historical Association is a charitable nonprofit institution whose purpose is to enhance the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the White House. To fulfill its purpose, the White House Historical Association produces educational literature and films, develops special programs, 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 20th edition.

The year 2000 marks the 200th 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.

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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 dowzers 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

ACTION CENTRAL

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

By HUGH SIDNEY

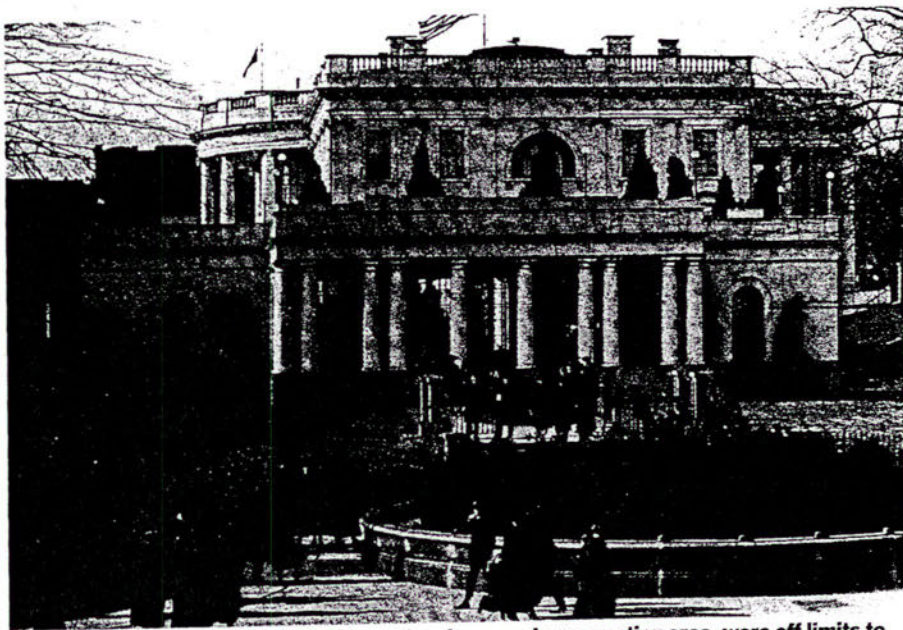
THE WHITE HOUSE WILL CELEBRATE its 200th birthday on Nov. 1, and right now the White House Historical Association is searching for someone round enough to play the role of President John Adams, the first President to take up residence there. All he has to do is climb into an antique carriage on Pennsylvania 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,



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-light passage way 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 dream died 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. All 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 air plane. 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 the echoed with the growl of gasoline engine.

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 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 trail 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.

-- more --

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

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.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
1800-2000

SYMPOSIUM