The South Lawn of the White House is filled with visitors, awaiting the appearance of the President who will soon greet a distinguished foreign visitor. Suddenly the murmur of the crowd is broken by the sound of trumpets playing “Ruffles and Flourishes.” A hush descends upon the throng . . . and then the familiar but always exciting—“Hail to the Chief.”

The crowd applauds as the President ascends the platform from which he will make welcoming remarks. The distinguished visiting chief of state and national anthems are played . . . statements are made by the President and his guest . . . soon the event is completed and the visitors, awaiting the appearance of the President who will lead them to the Diplomatic Reception Room, are once more in the South Lawn to the entrance of the Democratic Re-ception Room. The cornerstone of the White House was laid October 13, 1792, on a site selected by President George Washington. Plans for the house were drawn by Irish-born architect James Hoban, who also superintended its construction. (Hoban also supervised the reconstruction of the house after it was burned by the British in 1814, its construction. (Hoban also supervised the reconstruction of the building to be termed the “White House” from an early date. For many years, the course of construction, causing the building to be termed the “White House” from an early date. For many years, the building’s interior had not yet been completed, and Mrs. Adams used the unfinished East Room to dry the family wash. During Thomas Jefferson’s administration, the east and west terraces were constructed. Jefferson also opened the house each morning to all visitors—an extension of the democratic simplicity he favored and practiced in his social life.

When James Madison became President in 1809, his wife, the famous Dolley Madison, introduced some of the brilliance and glitter of Old World courts into the social life of the White House. Then, on August 24, 1814, British forces captured Washington and burned the house in retaliation for the destruction by American troops of some of their troops of some public buildings in Canada. Although the partially damaged sandstone walls and interior brickwork remained after reconstruction of the building began in 1815, the White House was ready for occupancy by President James Monroe in September 1817. The south portico, the dominant architectural feature of that side of the house, was built in 1824; the large bronze ornamented columns over the entrance and the driveway, in 1829.

Improvements, 1834-1948.

Throughout its history, the White House has kept pace with modern improvements. Spring water was piped into the building in 1834, gas lighting was introduced in 1848, and a hot-water heating system was installed in 1857. During Andrew Johnson’s administration, the east terrace was removed entirely. In 1881 the first elevator was installed, and in 1891, during Benjamin Harrison’s administration, the house was wired for electricity.

When Theodore Roosevelt moved into the White House in 1901, its interior was a conglomeration of styles and periods, and the house itself needed extensive structural repairs. Congress appropriated money to repair and refur-nish the house and to construct new offices for the President. Work began in June 1902 and by the end of the year the job was virtually completed. Several important changes were made between 1903 and 1948. The west wing offices were enlarged in 1909, several guestrooms were made in the attic during Wilson’s presidency, and the roof and third story were remodeled in 1927. A fire in the “White House”, a modern electric kitchen was installed, and a basement was dug under the north portico to provide space for kitchen and storage. During World War II, the east wing and an air-raid shelter were constructed and a motion-picture theater was installed in the east terrace. In 1948 a balcony was completed off the second floor behind the columns of the south portico.

Renovation, 1948-52.

Over the years, piecemeal altera-tions had weakened many of the building’s old wooden beams and interior walls. But not until a thorough exami-nation of the structure was made in 1948 was the really alarming condition of the house revealed. To allow a sur-vey to be made, President Harry S. Truman moved across the street into historic Blair-Lee House, now known as The President’s Guest House. Late in 1948, all furnishings were removed from the White House and placed in storage. Inspection revealed that beams were inadequately sup-ported, heavy ceilings had dropped several inches, and even the foundations were too weak to support the walls erected on them. Renovation began in December 1949 and by late 1950 the most critical phase of the work had been accomplished. The old sandstone walls were retained and supported by concrete foundations, and the wooden beams and brick supporting walls of the interior were replaced by a modern steel framework. Concrete floor slabs and partition walls erected. In March 1952, the Presidential family resumed residence in the White House.

During the renovation efforts were made to retain or restore the original atmosphere, while providing a more livable home for the President and his family. In all, the White House now has 132 rooms, including the 54 rooms and 16 baths in that part of the house used as living quarters.

This, then, is the White House. It has seen many his-toric events and personages. President Nixon and his family invite you to see this great home and experience at first hand its unique warmth and dignity.

About Your Visit. The White House is open to visitors from 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday through Saturday; in sum-mer, the Saturday hours are extended to 2 p.m. The house is closed Sunday and Monday, and some holidays.


the White House is more than an object of historical interest—it has seen so many great and memorable moments. Yet it remains a home where the President and his family enter the splendor of the State Dining Room . . . and where dignified atmosphere of the White House Library . . . and, as a question is asked and answered, one is reminded that history is being made . . . for in the back of the 37th President of the United States hangs a full-length portrait of George Washington who never lived here, but whose example and whose memory form a part of the spirit of the house.

Here, then, are the rooms of the White House—rooms of history. Beginning on the ground floor there are:

1. The Library. More than 2,700 volumes are on shelves on the东西 side of the lobby. The carvings on the ceiling are symbols of the various aspects of American life: biography, history, fiction, literary criticism, presidential policies, and books on the sciences of the President.

2. The Lobby. Recently decorated and refurbished in the colorful theme of the Reverend Frescoe Cooper, the Lobby is a large, three-legged octagonal table is a wood and crystal chandelier—one of the two wood chandeliers in the White House. This chandelier was once owned by the family of James Madison and placed here, piece by piece, as it was a giant jigsaw puzzle.

3. The East Room. This room was first used for the display of china in 1917 by Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, and at that time was called the "Presidential Collection Room." The room is lined with shelves on both sides from floor to ceil- ing. Behind glass on these shelves are pieces from the

white marble, are gilt candleabras of the Morosco period. The elegant wainscotting and portraits of American presidents,山水 and eagle supports, was placed in the room in 1938, is the setting for the formal portrait of Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt in the White House—the Gilbert Stuart painting of George Washington. It is a signature painting of the Studio of John Singleton Copley, the artist of the American Revolution, who was 80 years old when he painted it. It was acquired by the President in 1914 and placed in the room in 1918.

4. The Green Room. This room, used for formal receptions, has been restored as a Federal parlor of the late 18th or early 19th-century American Empire parlor. The walls are covered by mauve damask window draperies. A gilded chandelier, dating from 1902, is the only original one of this style in the White House. The Steinway concert piano, decorated with folk dancing scenes in gold and silver relief panels. The large crystal chandeliers, dating from 1817, are restored and placed in its original position in the room. On the east wall is the most notable portrait in the White House—George Washington by Gilbert Stuart, painted in 1835. At the end of the room are the words of John Adams: "May none but honest and wise men ever after inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever after inhabit it."

5. The State Dining Room. Exceeded in size only by the East Room, the State Dining Room can comfortably accommodate 140 guests at dinner parties. The Steinway concert piano, decorated with folk dancing scenes in gold and silver relief panels. The large crystal chandeliers, dating from 1817, are restored and placed in its original position in the room. On the east wall is the most notable portrait in the White House—George Washington by Gilbert Stuart, painted in 1835. At the end of the room are the words of John Adams: "May none but honest and wise men ever after inhabit it."

6. The Red Room. Used for small receptions, this room has been restored as a Federal parlor of the late 18th or early 19th-century American Empire parlor. The walls are covered by mauve damask window draperies. A gilded chandelier, dating from 1902, is the only original one of this style in the White House. The Steinway concert piano, decorated with folk dancing scenes in gold and silver relief panels. The large crystal chandeliers, dating from 1817, are restored and placed in its original position in the room. On the east wall is the most notable portrait in the White House—George Washington by Gilbert Stuart, painted in 1835. At the end of the room are the words of John Adams: "May none but honest and wise men ever after inhabit it."

7. The Family Dining Room (not visible on plan). This room, with its vaulted ceiling, white-enameled wainscoting and paneled walls, is furnished as an elegant, early 19th-century American dining room. The pantry is connected with the floor from kitchen. The furniture is of American design, based on English styles of the time. The walls are paneled in wood from the White House's original wood timbers which were replaced with steel girders during the

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