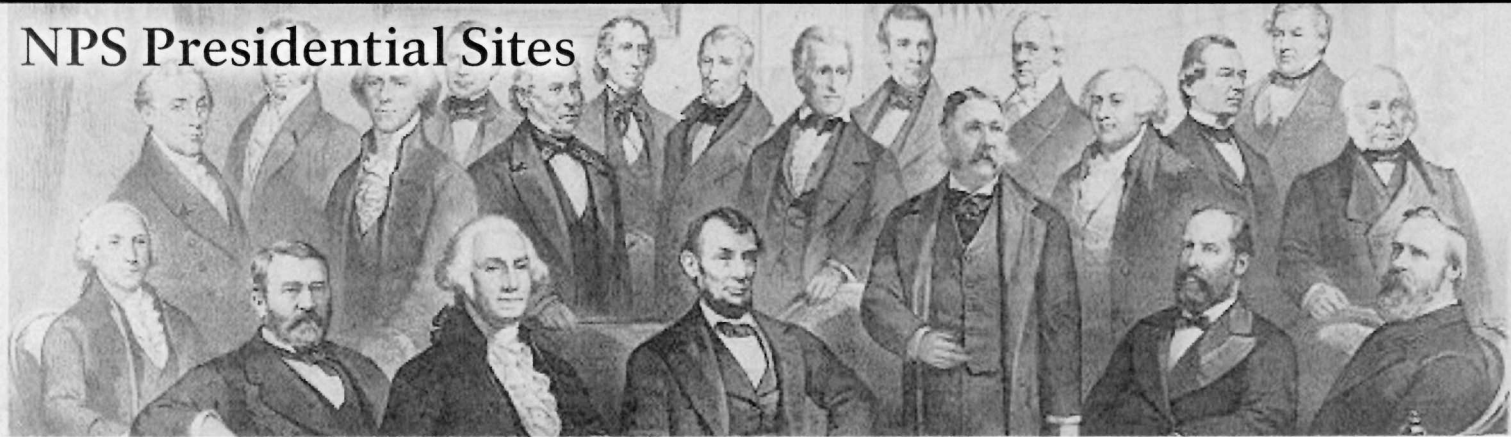




NPS Presidential Sites



There are 29 National Park Service units dedicated to United States Presidents. These sites represent 17 former presidents and span 17 states and the District of Columbia.

The President’s Job

The federal government is composed of three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. These branches are responsible for legislating (or creating) laws, executing laws, and interpreting laws respectively.

The president is the head of the Executive Branch, in charge of enforcing federal laws throughout the United States as legislated by Congress (the Legislative Branch) and within the limits established by the U.S. Constitution.

The president also serves as Head of State, the nation’s representative in both foreign and domestic affairs. The president represents the will and interests of the American people and provides guidance and unity in times of celebration and in times of mourning.

The president holds the title of Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. military and also has a role in legislation which includes veto powers and recommending legislation as he or she deems necessary.

Why are some presidents represented by NPS and others aren’t?

Each presidential site within the National Park Service was established individually. This is why there are multiple sites representing some presidents, such as Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt and why some presidents are not represented by units of the National Park Service.

The NPS mission is to “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for ... this and future generations.” All U.S. presidents are of national historic significance. Historic resources associated with the presidents tell the story of America. Therefore, cultural resources associated with any U.S. president fit the NPS mission.

Each proposed site has to be established by Congress or the president. Federal land can be designated as a National Monument or Memorial by the president. For any other property, public or private, an act of Congress is required to establish a national park site. The property owner, whether that’s a state or local government or an individual, works with the National Park Service to change ownership and management to the federal government.

Some presidential sites are managed by private entities or state agencies instead of the NPS. Some examples include Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello in Virginia and Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage in Tennessee.



As a stone mason, George Washington laid the cornerstone to the White House, but the building was not completed until after his presidency. Every president after Washington resided here.

Presidential Sites Managed by the NPS



- 1. Theodore Roosevelt NP
- 2. Lyndon B. Johnson NHP
- 3. Harry S. Truman NHS
- 4. President William H. Clinton Birthplace NHS
- 5. Herbert Hoover NHS
- 6. Ulysses S. Grant NHS
- 7. Lincoln Home NHS
- 8. Lincoln Boyhood NM
- 9. A. Lincoln Birthplace NHP
- 10. Jimmy Carter NHP
- 11. Andrew Johnson NHS
- 12. James A. Garfield NHS
- 13. Eisenhower NHS

- 14. National Mall
 - a. Washington Monument
 - b. Thomas Jefferson Memorial
 - c. Lincoln Memorial
 - d. Ford's Theatre NHS
 - e. Theodore Roosevelt Island
 - f. Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial
 - g. Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial
 - h. LBJ Memorial Grove on the Potomac

- 15. George Washington Birthplace NM
- 16. Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural NHS
- 17. Martin Van Buren NHS
- 18. Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS
- 19 a. General Grant National Memorial
- 19 b. Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS
- 20 a. Adams National Historical Park
- 20 b. John Fitzgerald Kennedy NHS

What do the different designations mean?

There are nineteen designations for National Park Service units. The designations are based on the primary purpose, resource type, and management requirements.

Presidential NPS sites include the following designations:

- National Park
- National Monument
- National Historic Site
- National Historical Park
- National Memorial

A **National Park** contains a variety of resources and requires a large area to protect and manage the resources. They are established through an act of Congress.

National Monuments preserve at least one nationally-significant resource. National Monuments are established either by the president through the Antiquities Act or through an act of Congress.

National Historic Sites and **National Historical Parks** are units that focus on historic resources, often associated with military history. These park units are established through an act of Congress.

National Memorials are primarily commemorative. They do not need to be historically significant to their subjects. Memorials are established either by the president through the Antiquities Act or by Congress through the Commemorative Works Act of 1986.

Andrew Johnson National Historic Site

Andrew Johnson National Monument was authorized by Congress in 1935 and established by Franklin Roosevelt in 1942. The site was redesignated as a National Historic Site in 1963 with the addition of the Early Home and Tailor Shop.

Johnson's descendents were instrumental in the establishment of the site, having preserved Johnson's properties and family artifacts for posterity. Andrew Johnson's daughter Martha Patterson made arrangements in her will to turn the family cemetery on Signal Hill (or Monument Hill) into a National Cemetery. The Andrew Johnson National Cemetery was

established in 1906 and was managed by the War Department until 1942 when it became part of Andrew Johnson National Monument. Martha's granddaughter Margaret Bartlett led tours of the Johnson Homestead as an NPS park guide from the 1950s into the 1970s.

Today, there are four parts to Andrew Johnson National Historic Site. These include the Tailor Shop and Visitor Center, the Early Home (where Johnson resided early in his political career), the Johnson Homestead (purchased by Johnson in 1851 and his home for 24 years), and the Andrew Johnson National Cemetery.