

**A History of
Presidential Inaugural Celebrations
and Events of Public Expression
at the White House and President's Park**

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Timeline of Presidential Inaugurations and Events of Public Expression

**** This listing is by no means complete ****

April 30, 1789	Inauguration of George Washington (New York)
October 13, 1792	Laying of White House Cornerstone
March 4, 1793	2 nd Inauguration of George Washington (Philadelphia)
March 4, 1797	Inauguration of John Adams (Philadelphia)
November 1, 1800	President John Adams takes residence in the President's House (November 17, 1 st Session of Congress in Washington)
March 4, 1801	Inauguration of Thomas Jefferson
March 4, 1805	2 nd Inauguration of Thomas Jefferson
March 4, 1809	Inauguration of James Madison
March 4, 1813	2 nd Inauguration of James Madison
August 24, 1814	Burning of the White House by the British
March 4, 1817	Inauguration of James Monroe
March 5, 1821	2 nd Inauguration of James Monroe
1824-1825	Marquis Lafayette Farewell Tour (Lafayette was in Washington October 12-17, 1824; December 1824-January 1825; August 1-September 7, 1825; a parade was held in 1824)
March 4, 1825	Inauguration of John Quincy Adams
March 4, 1829	Inauguration of Andrew Jackson
March 4, 1833	2 nd Inauguration of Andrew Jackson
March 4, 1837	Inauguration of Martin Van Buren

March 4, 1841	Inauguration of William Henry Harrison
April 4, 1841	Death of William Henry Harrison
April 6, 1841	Swearing-In of John Tyler
April 7, 1841	Funeral of William Henry Harrison
March 4, 1845	Inauguration of James K. Polk
March 5, 1849	Inauguration of Zachary Taylor
July 9, 1851	Death of Zachary Taylor
July 10, 1850	Swearing-In of Millard Fillmore
July 13, 1850	Funeral of Zachary Taylor
March 4, 1853	Inauguration of Franklin Pierce
March 4, 1857	Inauguration of James Buchanan
March 4, 1861	Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln
April 1861	Review of Union Volunteers by President Lincoln (This took place on or after April 14 in front of the White House)
March 4, 1865	2 nd Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln
April 15, 1865	Death of Abraham Lincoln
	Swearing-In of Andrew Johnson
April 19, 1865	Funeral of Abraham Lincoln
May 23-24, 1865	Grand Army of the Republic Victory Parade
April 16, 1867	Emancipation Day Parade
March 4, 1869	Inauguration of Ulysses S. Grant
March 4, 1873	2 nd Inauguration of Ulysses S. Grant
July 4, 1876	Centennial of the United States

March 5, 1877	Inauguration of Rutherford B. Hayes (Private swearing-in ceremony took place March 3)
March 4, 1881	Inauguration of James A. Garfield
September 19, 1881	Death of James A. Garfield (Elberon, New Jersey) (Garfield was shot July 2 in Washington, D.C.)
September 20, 1881	Swearing-In of Chester A. Arthur (New York)
March 4, 1885	Inauguration of Grover Cleveland
April 16, 1888	Emancipation Day Parade
March 4, 1889	Inauguration of Benjamin Harrison
April 18, 1892	Emancipation Day Parade
September 21-22, 1892	Grand Army of the Republic Encampment and Parade
March 4, 1893	2 nd Inauguration of Grover Cleveland
March 4, 1897	Inauguration of William McKinley
April 17, 1899	Emancipation Day Parade
May 23, 1899	Pageant of Peace (Admiral Dewey's departure for Philippines)
October 2-3, 1899	National Parade of Peace Jubilee (Admiral Dewey's return from Philippines)
April 16, 1900	Emancipation Day Parade
May 22, 1900	Shriner Parade
December 12, 1900	Capital Centennial Celebration (100 th Anniversary of the establishment of the federal government in Washington, D.C.; events were focused on the Capitol; Bingham model was unveiled at the White House and publicly displayed at the Corcoran Gallery of Art)
March 4, 1901	2 nd Inauguration of William McKinley

September 14, 1901	Death of William McKinley (Buffalo, New York) (McKinley was shot September 6)
	Swearing-In of Theodore Roosevelt (Buffalo, New York)
September 17, 1901	Funeral of William McKinley
October 2, 1902	Parade in Honor of Naval Veterans of the Civil War
October 9-10, 1902	Grand Army of the Republic Encampment
March 4, 1905	Inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt
March 4, 1909	Inauguration of William Howard Taft
March 3, 1913	Suffragette protest outside White House Gates (protests would last until passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920)
March 4, 1913	Inauguration of Woodrow Wilson
September 27- October 2, 1915	Grand Army of the Republic Encampment
September 29, 1915	Grand Army of the Republic Parade
June 17, 1916	Preparedness Day Parade
March 5, 1917	2 nd Inauguration of Woodrow Wilson
June 7, 1917	Unity Parade (Confederate and Union soldiers marched together to show their unite in fighting World War I)
April 28, 1918	Liberty Day Parade
November 11, 1918	Spontaneous public gathering at the announcement of the Armistice
November 12, 1918	Armistice Day Parade
September 17, 1919	World War I Victory Parade (General Pershing Parade)
March 4, 1921	Inauguration of Warren G. Harding
August 2, 1923	Death of Warren G. Harding (San Francisco, California)

August 3, 1923	Swearing-In Calvin Coolidge (Plymouth Notch, Vermont)
August 8, 1923	Funeral of Warren G. Harding
November 11, 1923	Funeral of the Unknown Soldier
March 4, 1925	Inauguration of Calvin Coolidge
August 7, 1925	Ku Klux Klan Parade
June 11, 1927	Charles Lindbergh Parade
March 4, 1929	Inauguration of Herbert Hoover
March 6, 1930	Communist Protest, White House Gates
April 6, 1932	Army Day Parade
July 28, 1932	Bonus Army March / Riot (events focused on Capitol)
March 4, 1933	Inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt
August 29, 1933	National Recovery Day Parade
April 7, 1934	Army Day Parade
June 11-13, 1935	Shriner Parade
September 20-26, 1936	Grand Army of the Republic Encampment
September 23, 1936	Grand Army of the Republic Parade
January 20, 1937	2 nd Inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt
January 20, 1941	3 rd Inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt
May 30, 1942	Decoration Day
June 13, 1942	Parade of Heroes
January 20, 1945	4 th Inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt
April 12, 1945	Death of Franklin D. Roosevelt (Warm Springs, Georgia)
	Swearing-In Harry S Truman

April 14, 1945	Funeral of Franklin D. Roosevelt
May 8, 1945	V-E Day (minimal celebrations took place on this day; the government and public were focused on winning the war in Japan)
June 18, 1945	General Eisenhower Parade
August 15, 1945	V-J Day (spontaneous gathering in Lafayette Park)
October 6, 1945	Admiral Nimitz Parade
November 5, 1948	Parade for President Truman (Election)
January 20, 1949	2 nd Inauguration of Harry S Truman
January 20, 1953	Inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower
January 21, 1957	2 nd Inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower
January 20, 1961	Inauguration of John F. Kennedy
May 8, 1961	Astronaut Alan Sheppard Parade
February 26, 1962	Astronaut John Glenn Parade
June 14, 1963	Civil rights Protest, Lafayette Park
August 28, 1963	Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s March on Washington
November 22, 1963	Death of John F. Kennedy (Dallas, Texas) Swearing-In of Lyndon B. Johnson (Dallas, Texas)
November 25, 1963	Funeral of John F. Kennedy
April 8, 1964	Funeral of General Douglas MacArthur
January 20, 1965	Inauguration of Lyndon B. Johnson
March 15, 1965	Civil Rights Rally, Lafayette Park
May 30, 1965	Civil War Centennial Parade

April 5, 1968	Riots following assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
June 19, 1968	Poor People's March
January 20, 1969	Inauguration of Richard M. Nixon
November 15, 1969	Vietnam War Protest, National Mall
May 1, 1970	May Day Protest
January 20, 1973	2 nd Inauguration of Richard M. Nixon
August 9, 1974	Resignation of Richard M. Nixon
	Swearing-In of Gerald R. Ford
July 4, 1976	Bicentennial of the United States
January 20, 1977	Inauguration of Jimmy Carter
January 20, 1981	Inauguration of Ronald Reagan
January 27, 1981	Welcome Home Parade for Iranian Hostages
January 21, 1985	2 nd Inauguration of Ronald Reagan
January 20, 1989	Inauguration of George Bush
June 8, 1991	Welcome Home Parade for Desert Storm troops
October 13, 1992	200 th Anniversary of the Laying of the White House Cornerstone
January 20, 1993	Inauguration of William Jefferson Clinton
January 20, 1997	2 nd Inauguration of William Jefferson Clinton

A Brief History of the Presidential Inaugural Celebrations at the White House

The celebration of presidential inaugurations at the White House has assumed many forms over the almost two hundred years that Presidents have taken office in Washington. With the exception of the date and length of term, and the words of the oath of office, the ceremony and its related festivities are based on tradition rather than law. The numerous events associated with inaugurations of the late 20th century, such as balls, parades, and public activities, have all been developed over time by Presidents, First Ladies and inaugural committees.

The inaugural parade is the oldest and most visible way of honoring a new President. This custom dates from the earliest inaugurations in Washington. In the 19th century groups of citizens escorted the new President to and from the ceremony at the Capitol. Early celebrations were modest; the men taking office generally wanted to avoid the pomp of monarchical coronations. Nevertheless, it did not take long for the simple escorts of citizens on horseback and military units to develop into parades. By 1841, William Henry Harrison's inaugural parade featured the first floats for the entertainment of parade spectators.

Today, the inaugural parade generally proceeds from the Capitol to the White House after the new President has taken the oath of office. The direction of the parade has also changed over time. In the early 19th century the trip to the Capitol was considered more important than the return to the White House, consequently the parade took place before the oath of office. Some Presidents, such as James Buchanan in 1857 and Ulysses S. Grant in 1869, had two parades, one before the ceremony and one

following it. With the progression of time, inaugural parades gradually became longer and more elaborate; at least 25,000 marchers participated in Grover Cleveland's 1885 parade, which required three hours to pass the executive reviewing stand. Because of time constraints the focus of the celebration was shifted to the afternoon by the late 1800s.

Presidential reviewing stands came into use with afternoon parades. Without a ceremony to hurry off to, a new President had more time to enjoy his parade and required a suitable place from which to review the procession. The first presidential reviewing stand of which a photographic record exists is James Garfield's 1881 inauguration. These temporary constructions have featured a variety of designs over the years. [See following essay for more information.]

In addition to the construction of presidential reviewing stands, the area around the parade route was also beautified. Inaugurations from 1901 until 1957 featured an area that was generally known as the Court of Honor. The practice of creating a temporary park of the presidential reviewing stand, the public grandstands and street decorations may have developed during the City Beautiful movement whose tenets taught that beauty could help cure urban blight and engender civic spirit. For Woodrow Wilson's 1917 inauguration, traffic around the Court of Honor was rerouted so that pedestrians could enjoy the area and other courts of the early 20th century were lit at night, suggesting use beyond the parade.

Presidents and others involved in the organization of inaugural festivities have long known that the inauguration sets the tone for the new President's administration. The careful selection of participants for the inaugural parade is a traditional way for a

new President to make a statement about his beliefs or values. Since 1849, when Zachary Taylor invited a large contingent of Native Americans to participate in an inaugural parade for the first time, parade participation has become a symbol of national recognition. Dates of other significant parade participation firsts include African-Americans in 1865, Southerners (after the Civil War) in 1885, Puerto Ricans in 1905 and women in 1917. Additional and intentional significance was added to the inaugural celebration in the mid-20th century with the adoption of a “themed” inauguration. The earliest themed inauguration seems to have taken place in 1953 when Dwight Eisenhower celebrated his first inauguration as the “The Crusade in America.” Other themes have included “World Peace” (1961), “Peace” (1965), “The Spirit of ‘76” (1973), “America—A New Beginning” (1981), and “An American Reunion” (1993).

These themes obviously reflect events in American political and cultural life. Inaugurations taking place during times of political uncertainty have been marked by heavy security, as in 1865 and 1965; during war time Presidents have made attempts to limit celebratory activities out of respect for the men and women of the armed forces and to limit government expense. During the Cold War the United States flaunted its military strength for Eisenhower’s parades in 1953 and 1957 but made efforts to limit the visibility of its military in 1969 when many Americans disputed the country’s involvement in Vietnam. President Nixon’s theme in 1969, “Forward Together” reflected his hope to unite Americans in a divisive political climate.

Just as those involved in inaugural preparations have sought to infuse an inauguration with a particular theme, other Americans have found presidential inaugurations, with their political significance and public focus, an optimal time to bring

public attention to a particular issue or cause. Woodrow Wilson's inauguration in 1913 saw the first large-scale demonstration outside the White House gates. Women's suffrage advocates staged a protest march down Pennsylvania Avenue and near the White House on the day before the inauguration hoping to influence the new President's beliefs. The inaugurations of the 1960s and 1970s were also the focus of several large demonstrations on behalf of civil rights and anti-war causes. Today, any group wishing to protest or support a cause can apply to the Department of the Interior for a permit to demonstrate on January 20.

In addition to events outside the White House, there is a long history of public inaugural activities inside the mansion. James Madison began the tradition of hosting a reception after the inaugural ceremony at his first inauguration in 1809. It was not until 1813 however that the gathering took place inside the White House. The best known of these parties was Andrew Jackson's 1829 reception, which was attended by 20,000 guests. Without security, the reception quickly degenerated into a mob scene and the visitors left the White House only after quick-thinking servants served refreshments on the lawn. Nevertheless, the custom was maintained for years afterward and was phased out only after parades were shifted to the afternoon. Recently Presidents Bush and Clinton have revived this old tradition, hosting receptions for the public on the day after the inauguration.

A review of presidential inaugurations reveals that, over time, these celebrations have transitioned away from a celebration of the man occupying the office to a public festival celebrating a democratic practice. Early inaugurals focussed on the achievements of an individual and invited the participation of cabinet members, the diplomatic corps

and government officials only. Over the years, inaugurals have come to include a more representative cross-section of the population. In addition to inaugural parades and balls the most recent inaugurations have featured public activities and entertainment on the National Mall, events outside Washington, and the revival of public White House receptions. These programs, which seek to involve as many persons as possible in the transition of power, are complemented by officially sanctioned protests and demonstrations on inauguration day. Today more than ever, Americans of diverse backgrounds and beliefs are included in the inauguration. The quadrennial festivities of January 20 no longer celebrate one person's election to political office but a democratic government at work.

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A Brief History of Presidential Reviewing Stands

Almost every four years a reviewing stand is constructed or re-constructed for the use of the President during the inaugural parade. The design of these stands has varied greatly over time, some were little more than small platforms, others ornate two-story edifices. In the 19th and early 20th centuries the design and decoration of the stand drew regular comments from the press and elicited great public discussion. Today, the reviewing stand receives little, if any, mention in accounts of the inauguration. In spite of their interesting past and colorful architecture, presidential reviewing stands have largely been ignored by historians.

The custom of constructing a reviewing stand for an inaugural parade came into existence when the inaugural parade was shifted from the trip to the Capitol before the ceremony to the return to the White House after the ceremony in the mid-1800s. Parades gradually grew longer because an afternoon parade gave a new President more time to enjoy the spectacle and allowed for the participation of more Americans in an inaugural parade, considered then, as now, a great honor. Parades could last as long as five hours and the new President required a suitable location from which to review the participants.

Reviewing stands had been used by Presidents for other events before they were first used for an inaugural parade. At least two stands were constructed for non-inaugural parades during Lincoln's second term and Andrew Johnson's administration. The first inauguration for which a stand was constructed, although few documents exist to support this fact, was said to be for Grant's first inauguration in 1869. The first reviewing stand of which a photographic record exists was constructed for James Garfield's inauguration in 1881.

Nineteenth and early 20th century reviewing stands were usually paid for by the guaranty fund put up by Pennsylvania Avenue merchants. This fund financed the construction of the public grandstands, for which tickets were sold and from which merchants were reimbursed. The selection of the design for the stands and their construction was overseen by the Chairman of the Committee of the Court of Honor and Reviewing Stands, one of many inaugural committee heads.

Images of early reviewing stands reveal them to be fanciful, flamboyant constructions, bedecked with flags, swaddled in bunting and decorated with flowers and greenery. The reviewing stand was generally built directly in front of the White House, which was also decorated for the occasion. Grandstands were constructed on either side of Pennsylvania Avenue and buildings along the avenue were hung with flags and red, white and blue muslin. The decorated areas, which normally encompassed the White House, the reviewing and grandstand area, came to be known as the Court of Honor. While the parade only lasted a few hours the decorations at the court remained in place for several days or weeks providing a pleasant strolling area for inaugural visitors and Washington residents.

Much thought was put into the creation of these mini-parks. William McKinley's 1901 Court of Honor was bordered with freestanding 40-foot columns to resemble the Alexandrian Bridge at the Paris Expo. In 1905 Theodore Roosevelt borrowed a collection of statues of notable Americans that had been exhibited at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis and termed the area the "Court of History." Washington architect Waddy B. Wood designed three inaugural reviewing stands, each based on other buildings. Woodrow Wilson's first inauguration in 1913 was modeled on his childhood

home in Virginia and Franklin D. Roosevelt's first two stands were based on Federal Hall in New York, in honor of the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth, and Andrew Jackson's home, the Hermitage in Nashville.

It appears that it wasn't until 1949 that a procedure was instituted for selecting the design of the executive reviewing stand. The American Institute of Architects organized an *esquisse* competition; this type of competition required the entrants to assemble and sketch out a design in the presence of the jury. After a length of time a jury would make a selection based on what the competitors had produced. It appears that in early competitions contestants may have also voted on the winning design. *Esquisse* competitions continued until 1965 when they gave way to formal juried competitions; in these competitions the identity of the competing architects remained unknown to jury members. During the period in which competitions were held winning designs were twice rejected in favor of the previous inauguration's design. In 1957 President Eisenhower preferred to keep his 1953 stand and President Nixon's 1973 design was substantially modified and ultimately rejected, most likely because of design issues. In 1977 Jimmy Carter selected an Atlanta firm to design his controversial reviewing stand. This stand, which used solar energy for heat, was panned by the press for its cost (\$178,000). Carter's selection of a home state firm seems to have ended the participation of the American Institute of Architects in the reviewing stand design and construction process. Little information is available concerning the origin of the 1981 stand other than the fact that no competition was held because of limited time. The 1985 stand was similar to the previous design except for a large presidential seal placed over the center of the stand and a smaller seal on the front of the executive seating area. Like the Capitol

inaugural platform, which is reconstructed every four years, it appears that the 1985 stand has been reassembled for the last three inaugurations.

Shelly McKenzie
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This representation of Thomas Jefferson walking to his first inauguration in 1801 is taken from a 1913 *Washington Post* story describing the many falsehoods perpetuated about what actually transpired at Jefferson's first inauguration. An early erroneous account is responsible for the widely held belief that Jefferson came to the Capitol on horseback. In actuality Jefferson stayed at a boarding house on Capitol Hill and walked the short distance to the Capitol.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library, (*Washington Post*, March 5, 1913)

Inauguration of Thomas Jefferson

4th Inaugural
Wednesday, March 4, 1801

- Event:** President Jefferson's was the first inauguration in Washington. Because the election was disputed until only two weeks before the ceremony no arrangements had been made for celebration. With the exception of an artillery blast over the city at dawn and the presence of a company of riflemen and artillery outside Jefferson's boarding house there were few festivities in Washington.
- Location:** U.S. Capitol, Senate Chamber (today known as the Old Senate Chamber, at this time only the Senate Wing had been constructed). About 1,000 people, the largest crowd assembled in Washington to date, witnessed the ceremony. [*Washington Post*, March 6, 1917]
- Parade/Procession:** President Jefferson walked to the Capitol from his Capitol Hill boarding house, escorted by members of Congress and the public. His entrance into the Capitol was signaled by artillery fire, as was his exit. After the ceremony Jefferson returned to his boarding house on foot accompanied by the Vice President, the Chief Justice and members of his cabinet. [*Washington, D.C.: A Turn of the Century Treasury*, p. 176; *Washington Post*, Jan. 20, 1953; *National Intelligencer*, March 6, 1801]
- White House Events:** The morning of the inauguration, John Adams left Washington before sunrise. Jefferson did not take residence of the President's House until March 19.
- Other:** Although the President spent the remainder of the day at home there were parties and bonfires in Washington and the taverns did a brisk business. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 18-20; *Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 16-19]
- Weather:** Mild and sunny.

2nd Inauguration of Thomas Jefferson

5th Inaugural
Monday, March 4, 1805

- Event:** Jefferson's second inauguration was as simple as the first, conforming to his wishes. His entrance to the Capitol was marked by artillery fire.
- Location:** U.S. Capitol, Senate Chamber (today known as the Old Senate Chamber, at this time only the Senate Wing had been constructed).
- Parade/Procession:** This was the first time that Pennsylvania Avenue was used for an inaugural procession; at the time the road was gravel and lined with Lombardy poplars that Jefferson had planted. A crowd of citizens, members of Congress and mechanics from the Navy Yard spontaneously escorted Jefferson from the Capitol to the President's House. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 20]

Inauguration of James Madison

6th Inaugural
Saturday, March 4, 1809

- Event:** Ten thousand visitors came to Washington for the inauguration, which doubled the city's population. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 22] After the ceremony Madison was greeted with a rifle salute and reviewed nine companies of infantry. President Madison's was the first inauguration where a wife was present to witness her husband's swearing in.
- Location:** House Chamber, U.S. Capitol, now Statuary Hall, this portion of the Capitol had recently been completed. Bleachers were erected inside the room to accommodate female spectators.
- Parade/Procession:** The city militia volunteered to escort President Madison from his home near the White House to the Capitol for the ceremony. President-elect Madison rode to the ceremony in a carriage; President Jefferson had declined an invitation to ride in the same carriage and simply followed the procession, with other Washington dignitaries, on horseback down Pennsylvania Avenue. [*Man from Monticello*, p. 343]
- White House Events:** A crowd assembled to bid former President Jefferson farewell at the White House; Jefferson had tried to avoid this in order to focus the festivities on the new President but was forced to leave the inauguration early to make an appearance. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 24; *Man from Monticello*, p. 343]
- After the ceremony President Madison returned to his F Street home with a cavalry escort and hosted a reception with his wife. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 23] Because of the presence of the stylish Dolley Madison the inauguration became, for the first time, a social occasion and the first inaugural ball was held. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 22-3]
- Other Details:** President Madison was the first to be inaugurated wearing clothing of 100% American manufacture.

2nd Inauguration of James Madison

7th Inaugural
Thursday, March 4, 1813

- Event:** James Madison's second inauguration took place as the nation fought the War of 1812. In spite of the close election and the war, inaugural festivities took place. That the celebration was maintained in wartime is usually attributed to Dolley Madison who had built a reputation as a hostess and party-giver.
- Location:** House Chamber, U.S. Capitol, now Statuary Hall. 10, 000 spectators were on hand for the event. ["Selected Parades...", np.]
- Procession/Parade:** President Madison's second inaugural procession was much like the first; it included cavalry and voluntary militia. Many of the soldiers who marched to the Capitol were on active duty protecting the capital. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 26; *Universal Gazette*, March 12, 1813]
- White House Events:** After the ceremony the President and Mrs. Madison hosted an ice cream reception at the White House open to the public. The wife of newspaper editor William Seaton observed that "every creature that could afford twenty-five cents for hack-hire was present." [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 26]
- Weather:** Sunny and fine.
- Other Details:** An evening ball was held at Davis' Hotel.

Inauguration of James Monroe

8th Inaugural
Tuesday, March 4, 1817

- Event:** President Monroe's inauguration was the first to be held outdoors since Washington's inauguration in New York City. After the British had burned Washington in 1814, a temporary building, Congress Hall, was built by the city to accommodate the Senate and the House of Representatives on the site of the present day Supreme Court building (First and A Streets, NE). Annoyed that he had not been appointed Secretary of State, House Speaker Henry Clay declared the House chamber could not support the weight of all those wishing to attend the ceremony. Monroe, not wanting to stir up trouble, relented and decided to hold his inauguration outdoors. [*White House Profile*, p. 77; *Sunday Star*, March 5, 1933]
- Location:** Outdoor platform, Congress Hall. Between five and eight thousand spectators attended the swearing in ceremony, which was constantly interrupted by cheers from the crowd. After the oath was pronounced the militia fired and the Marine Corps band played, making its first appearance at an inaugural.
- Parade/Procession:** On the 4th a group of men, responding to a public notice issued by the mayors of Georgetown and Washington assembled at the Franklin Hotel and rode on horseback to Monroe's residence in Northwest Washington to escort the President-elect to the Capitol. Monroe and Vice President-elect Tompkins rode in the same carriage to the Capitol, the only time an incoming President and Vice President have done so. President Madison arrived at the ceremony separately. At Congress Hall to greet the arriving officials were a Marine Corps unit, two companies of infantry from Alexandria, the Georgetown Rifles, and a battery of artillery. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 28]
- White House Events:** After the ceremony the Monroes were escorted back to their I Street home, where they hosted a reception; they would reside there until the autumn of 1817 because the repairs required after the British burned the White House took almost three years. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 28-30]
- Weather:** Mild spring day.

2nd Inauguration of James Monroe

9th Inaugural
Monday, March 5, 1821

- Event:** For the first time inauguration day fell on a Sunday. On the advice of Chief Justice Marshall, the inauguration was moved to Monday. Because the President's and Vice President's terms expired on the 4th at noon the country found itself without a new President for one day. In 1792 Congress had passed a bill which transferred power, in the absence of the President and Vice President, to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and in its vacancy to the Speaker of the House. The man occupying this office was John Gaillard of South Carolina. This exact situation would never arise again but, technically speaking, for March 4, 1821, the President was John Gaillard. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 31; *Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 30]
- Location:** House Chamber, U. S. Capitol. Over 2,000 people witnessed the ceremony. The ceremony had been scheduled to take place on an outdoor platform outside Congress Hall but was moved indoors because of the weather.
- Parade/Procession:** The President rode to the Capitol in a simple carriage and carriages transporting cabinet officers followed him. There was no military escort and only a few citizens walked with the procession. The route to the Capitol was deserted because of the cold weather and muddy roads.
- White House Events:** After the ceremony the Monroes received the public in the White House.
- Weather:** Heavy rain and snow the previous night.

Inauguration of John Quincy Adams

10th Inaugural
Friday, March 4, 1825

- Event:** The Capitol building began to fill up hours before the ceremony. The Marine Corps band was stationed at the entrance to the Capitol to provide music when the President-elect arrived. Although Adams was known to be very religious there is no indication that a Bible was used in the ceremony.
- Location:** House Chamber, U.S. Capitol. The Capitol building had recently been rebuilt.
- Parade/Procession:** President Monroe traveled to the Adams' home to pick up the President-elect; he was the first President to accompany his successor to the ceremony. A procession formed at the Adams' home in Northwest Washington. President Adams' carriage was preceded by a cavalry unit and followed by an escort of prominent Washingtonians. Artillery and local military units brought up the rear of the procession. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 34-5] After the ceremony the President reviewed the units in front of the Capitol; he returned home escorted by the same procession. [Adams Clippings File, Martin Luther King Library]
- White House Events:** After the ceremony the new President and his wife received visitors at their home and later called on the former President who had not yet vacated the White House. [*Niles Weekly Register*, March 12, 1825]
- Other Details:** This was the first time a President wore long pants to inaugural ceremony instead of knee-length breeches.
- Weather:** Cloudy.



An announcement in the newspaper advised citizens that Andrew Jackson would receive them at the White House after his inauguration in 1829. Over 20,000 people came to the mansion. Unable to control the crowd, quick-thinking waiters served punch on the lawn and successfully lured the visitors away from the mansion.

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Inauguration of Andrew Jackson

11th Inaugural
Wednesday, March 4, 1829

Event: Andrew Jackson was regarded as a “man of the people” and his inauguration was cause for great public celebration. Although the official festivities were limited because of his wife’s death thousands of people traveled long distances to see the President inaugurated. On inauguration day women and men adorned themselves with hickory necklaces and carried hickory brooms, canes, and nuts in honor of “Old Hickory.” [*Avenue of the Presidents*, p. 65-6] President Jackson’s popularity brought a festival atmosphere to his inauguration. Daniel Webster wrote of the day, “I never saw such a crowd here before. Persons have come from five hundred miles to see General Jackson, and they really seem to think that the country is rescued from some dreadful danger.”

Location: East Portico, U.S. Capitol. There were at least 10,000 spectators at Jackson’s inaugural ceremony.

Parade/Procession: A few weeks before coming to Washington Jackson’s wife, Rachel, died. Jackson wore a mourning band on his hat; because of his sorrow he forbid military escorts or a parade on inauguration day and refused an elegant carriage offered by a group of Baltimore residents. Jackson walked to the Capitol. A group of Revolutionary War soldiers persuaded him to at least accept their escort as “Our advanced ages preclude the idea that this is designed to be a military pageant.” [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 37-8] The group was followed by thousands who had come to see the inauguration. President Jackson returned to the White House on horseback.

Weather: The sky had begun to cloud over in the few minutes before the start of the ceremony. Just as Jackson made his appearance on the stand outside the Capitol the clouds broke and the sun shined brightly, inciting the crowd to shout and cheer. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 40]

White House Events: After the ceremony Jackson tried to greet supporters and shook hands with the crowds lining Pennsylvania Avenue but their numbers were too large to be manageable. Because of an announcement in the paper advising citizens that the President would receive them after the ceremony at the President’s House over 20,000 people arrived at the mansion. No police were on duty to protect the house and thousands of dollars of crystal and china were broken as well as most of the downstairs windows. The crowds were led outside thanks to quick-thinking White House servants who served punch on the grounds thereby enticing the crowds out of the house. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 39-40] In spite of this, Jackson maintained a practice of opening the White House to the public. [*Avenue of the Presidents*, p. 67]

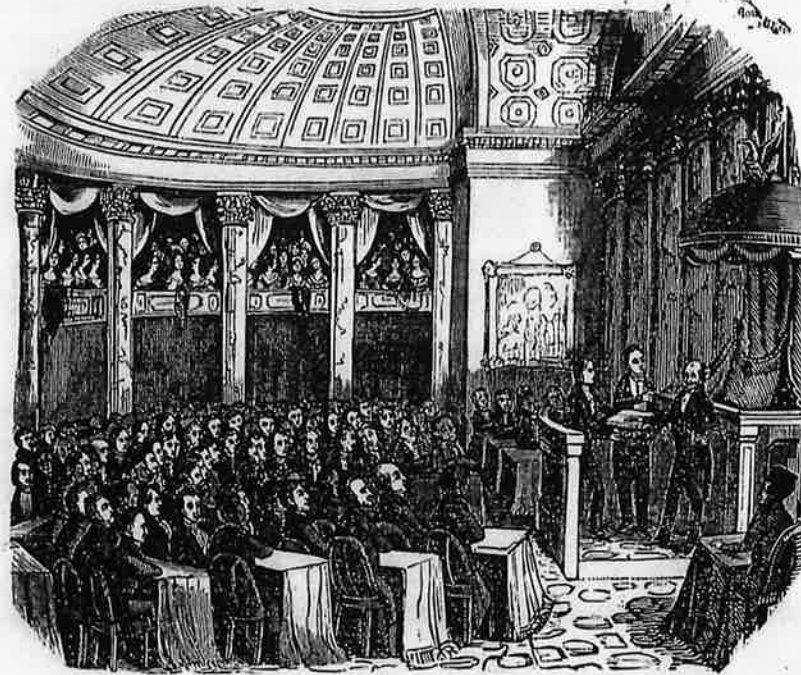
Other Details: President Adams played no role in the inaugural festivities. When Jackson arrived in Washington three weeks before the inauguration he slighted Adams by not paying his respects. Adams left Washington on inauguration day. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 34-8.]

2nd Inauguration of Andrew Jackson

12th Inaugural
Monday, March 4, 1833

- Event:** In preparation for President Jackson's second inauguration the Washington police force was enlarged and a special unit was assigned to the White House because of the events four years previous.
- Parade/Procession:** Because the President was not in good health he rode rather than walked from the White House to the Capitol. The way to the Capitol was lined with cheering, orderly crowds monitored by policemen. At the east front of the building he was met by the mayor of Washington, D.C., marking the first time that the city played an official role in inaugural festivities.
- Location:** House Chamber, U.S. Capitol. The ceremony was held indoors due to cold weather.
- White House Events:** The public was again received at the White House after the ceremony and even though guards kept the peace the President was unable to stay long because of his ill health. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 41-2; *Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 41]
- Weather:** Snow on the ground; cold bright day, temperature 11 degrees.

REPRESENTATION OF THE INAUGURATION OF M. VAN BUREN,
MARCH 4, 1837.



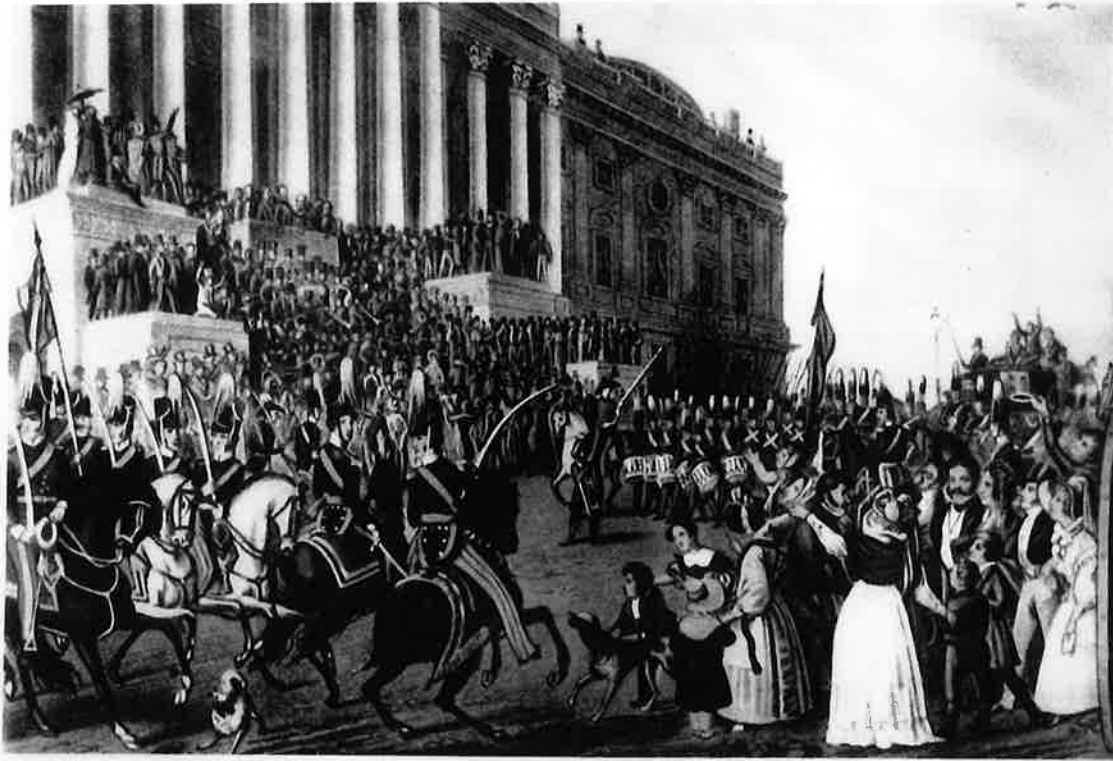
President Martin Van Buren's 1837 inauguration took place on an outdoor platform at the Capitol. This widely disseminated image, depicting an indoor scene, is erroneous and is believed to represent Van Buren's 1833 inauguration as vice president.

Office of the Curator, Architect of the Capitol

Inauguration of Martin Van Buren

13th Inaugural
Saturday, March 4, 1837

- Event:** The transition of power took place amicably; Van Buren's inauguration was the first time the President and the President-elect would ride together from the White House to the Capitol. The inauguration drew hordes of visitors to Washington. Hotels, rooming houses and restaurants were full. People slept on hay bales in market houses and a group of visitors from Boston paid to take turns sleeping in the chairs of a barbershop. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 44]
- Location:** East Portico, U.S. Capitol. There were over 20,000 people on the grounds of the Capitol to watch the ceremony.
- Parade/Procession:** Jackson and Van Buren rode together to the inaugural ceremony in a specially built carriage or phaeton built from the timber of the frigate *Constitution*. The carriage was led by four horses and featured plaques on either side with etchings of "Old Ironsides." Spectators lined Pennsylvania Avenue and cheered as the carriage passed. The procession was led by two units of cavalry and infantry.
- White House Events:** A public reception was held at the White House after the ceremony. Guests were received by President Van Buren and former President Jackson for three hours. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 45]
- Weather:** Clear, cold and sunny.
- Other Details:** Martin Van Buren was the first President born under the U.S. flag to take office.



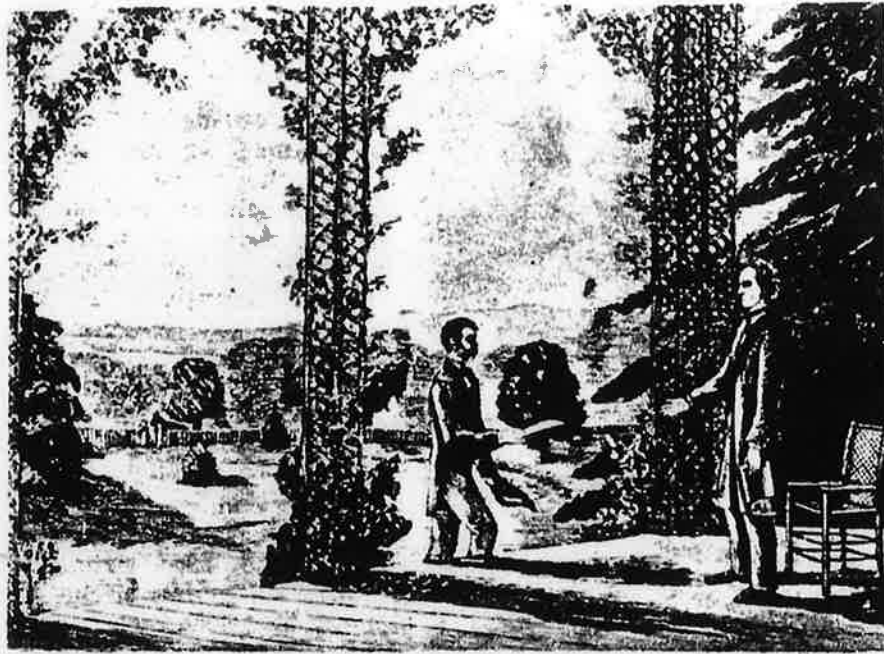
President William Henry Harrison's swearing in ceremony took place on an outdoor platform on the east front of the Capitol. Harrison led his own lively parade both to and from the ceremony. The 1841 inaugural celebration was the largest to date and over 50,000 spectators were present.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library

Inauguration of William Henry Harrison

14th Inaugural
Thursday, March 4, 1841

- Location:** East Portico, U.S. Capitol. The crowd to witness Harrison's inauguration ceremony numbered between 50,000 and 60,000.
- Parade/Procession:** The beginning of inaugural festivities was marked with a 26-gun salute by the Columbian Artillery at daybreak. [*National Register*, March 13, 1841] President Harrison led his own inaugural procession to the Capitol on his horse, Old Whitey. The parade began at 11 am and included former President Adams and the justices of the Supreme Court. [*New York Weekly Herald*, March 6, 1841] They were followed by military units including the Potomac Dragoons, the National Greys of Philadelphia, the Washington Infantry and the National Blues. Two floats were also featured in the parade: a log cabin constructed in Laurel, Maryland that displayed white flags with the states' names that had voted for Harrison and a loom being worked by several people who, as they completed a piece of cloth, threw it to the crowd. [*National Register*, March 13, 1841] Additionally, governors of Whig states, the Washington diplomatic corps and uniformed Georgetown College students participated. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 50, *Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 50-1] After the ceremony the President led the inaugural procession back to White House. [Inaugurations Clippings File, Martin Luther King Library] A large, enthusiastic crowd lined the parade route; ladies waved handkerchiefs and people hung from windows and balconies. [*National Register*, March 13, 1841] Former President Van Buren watched the parade standing in the street along with the rest of the crowd. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 51]
- White House Events:** The President received the public in the White House after the ceremony. Explaining that it was painful for him, guests were not allowed to shake the President's hand but could only bow as they went through the receiving line. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 51] The crowd was so great that not all of those who wished to greet the President could be accommodated.
- Other Details:** Benjamin Harrison, father of William Henry Harrison, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Mrs. Harrison did not attend the inauguration.
- Weather:** Cold and intermittent rain. In spite of low temperatures Harrison did not wear an overcoat for the ceremony or parade; the weather was blamed for his death a little over a month later.



John Tyler, the first Vice President to complete a President's unfinished term, receives word of William Henry Harrison's death, 1841.

Vice President John Tyler was the first man to accede to the presidency on the death of a sitting president on April 6, 1841. Tyler was home in Virginia when he received news of the president's death in a letter from Secretary of State Daniel Webster. William Henry Harrison's death was blamed on the fact that he wore no overcoat during his inauguration a month earlier.

Office of the Curator, Architect of the Capitol

Swearing In of John Tyler / Funeral of William Henry Harrison

Tuesday, April 6 and Wednesday, April 7, 1841

Event: President Tyler took office on the death of President Harrison only one month into his term on April 4. Harrison had caught pneumonia, some say during his inauguration, which took place in cold, wet weather. Harrison did not wear an overcoat during the ceremony or the inaugural parade and regularly went out without one. He also refused to see a doctor when he first became ill, preferring to rely on the brief medical education he had received many years earlier. When he finally agreed to see a physician his condition had become too serious to remedy. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 54]

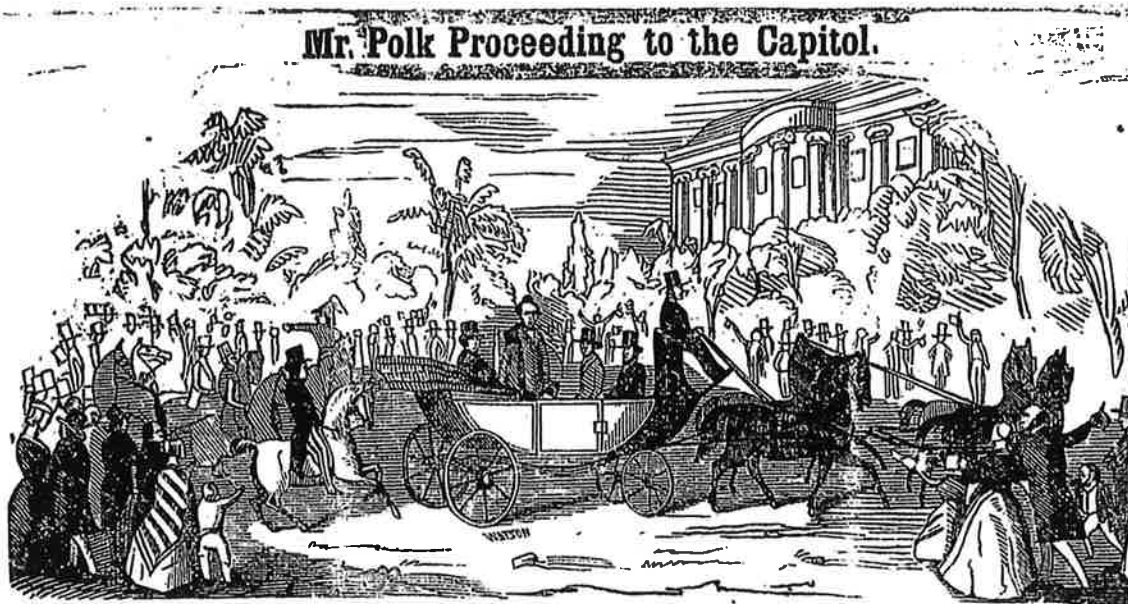
Vice President Tyler received news of the President's death in Williamsburg, Virginia with the arrival of a letter from Secretary of State Daniel Webster. [*Weekly Herald*, April 10, 1841] John Tyler's assumption of the office was the first time a Vice President had become President on the death of a sitting President. Some confusion resulted about whether or not Tyler had to be inaugurated or whether he should even take office. Newspapers reporting Harrison's death continued to refer to Tyler as the "Vice President" or the "Acting President." [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 55] The debate on Tyler's right to become President lasted for several days until Tyler made a decision to take the oath of office and summoned a judge to his hotel.

Location: Brown's Indian Queen Hotel, Washington, D.C. The oath was given by a judge of the circuit court of the District of Columbia in the presence of the cabinet.

White House Events: President Harrison's body lay in state for two days in the East Room of the White House. The funeral service was also held in the East Room on April 7. The pall was decorated with hyacinths and two of Harrison's swords. President Tyler and the Washington diplomatic corps attended the ceremony. Twenty-six men, dressed in white scarves and black crape, representing each of the states, served as pallbearers. [*Story of the White House*, p. 273] Crowds spontaneously gathered at the doors of the White House but they could only make out the front hall through the open door. [*Weekly Herald*, April 10, 1841]

Funeral Procession: The death of the first sitting President made for the largest procession seen to date in Washington. A two-mile long procession brought the body to the Navy Burying Ground (Congressional Cemetery) where the remains were deposited in a vault to be later transported to North Bend, Ohio.

Other Details: Washington observed the President's death by closing businesses, ringing bells and draping the buildings of Pennsylvania Avenue in black. President Harrison's death was the third time that President Tyler entered office on the death of the incumbent. He became governor of Virginia and senator after the men holding those offices died. [*Weekly Herald*, April 10, 1841]



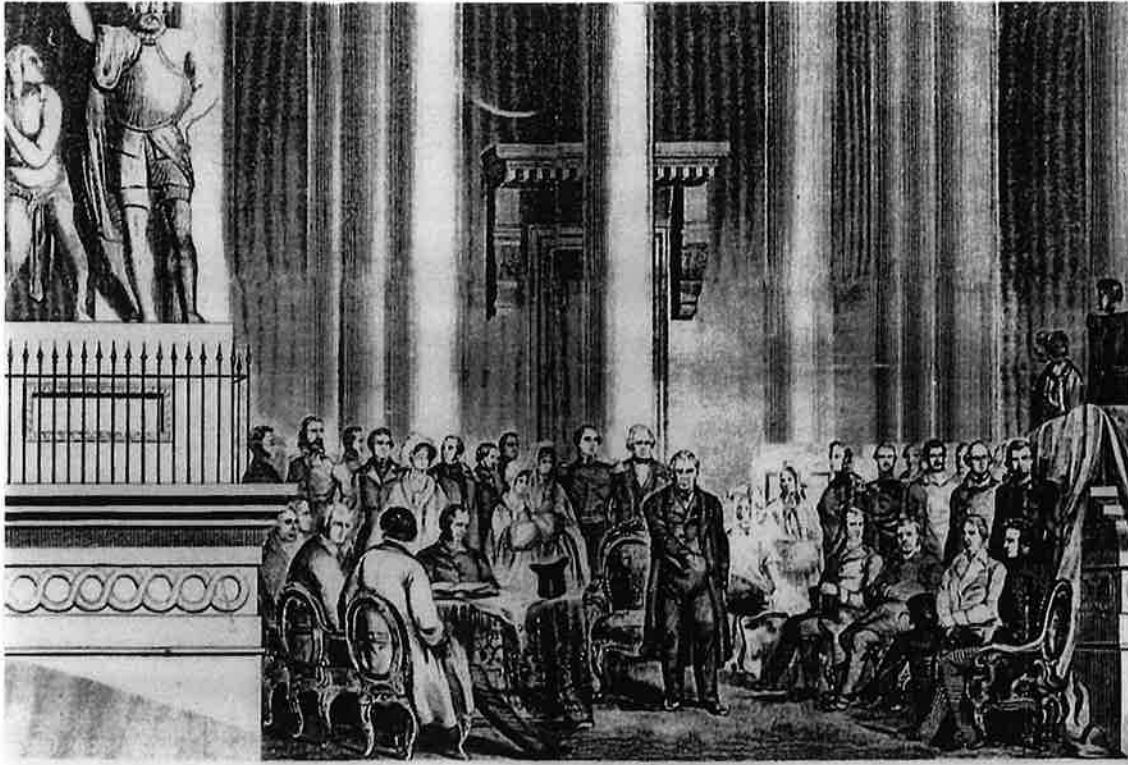
President-elect James K. Polk left for the Capitol from the White House with President John Tyler for his inauguration in 1845. Polk is said to have stood for the length of the trip; he was a small man and early accounts often mention that, in order to appear taller, he stood so erect that he appeared to be on tiptoe.

Office of the Curator, Architect of the Capitol (New York *Herald*, March 6, 1845)

Inauguration of James K. Polk

15th Inaugural
Tuesday, March 4, 1845

- Event:** Polk had vowed to take the oath of office outdoors no matter what the weather. 30,000 visitors had come to Washington for the festivities and those that watched the ceremony did so standing in ankle-deep mud because of a new rule which prohibited carriage access to the Capitol grounds.
- Location:** East Portico, U.S. Capitol.
- Parade:** In spite of the weather Polk rode to the White House from his lodgings at Coleman's National Hotel standing in an open carriage. The planned parade to the Capitol was a disappointment; many dignitaries refused to participate because of the bad weather. The diplomatic corps and members of the Supreme Court withdrew. The parade included members of political clubs, the Fairfax Cavalry, Revolutionary War veterans, Washington clergy, the Empire Club of New York and students, faculty and staff from Georgetown University, [*Avenue of the Presidents*, p. 98-100] numbering about 200 at the start and growing larger as the procession approached the Capitol. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 57] The *National Intelligencer* reported that spectators cheered and ladies waved handkerchiefs as the parade passed. [*National Intelligencer*, March 5, 1845] For the return to the White House the President took an alternate route to avoid muddy Pennsylvania Avenue.
- White House Events:** The return procession ended on the mansion's doorstep where President Polk conducted a quick review of the voluntary militia who had marched in the parade, and who were, after several hours in the pouring rain, drenched to the bone. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 59] A public reception was held in the White House after the ceremony. [*National Intelligencer*, March 5, 1845; *Official Souvenir Program*, 1901, Polk Clippings File, Martin Luther King Library]
- Other Details:** From a seat on the inaugural platform Samuel F.B. Morse sent reports of the inauguration via telegraph, which had been invented the previous year, to Baltimore.
- Weather:** Pouring rain, cold. The planned evening fireworks were cancelled.



President Zachary Taylor's inauguration in 1849 fell on a Sunday; he was sworn in Monday, March 5, and for one day the country was technically without a president. The inaugural parade took place before the ceremony; afterwards, a reception was held at the White House.

Office of the Curator, Architect of the Capitol

Inauguration of Zachary Taylor

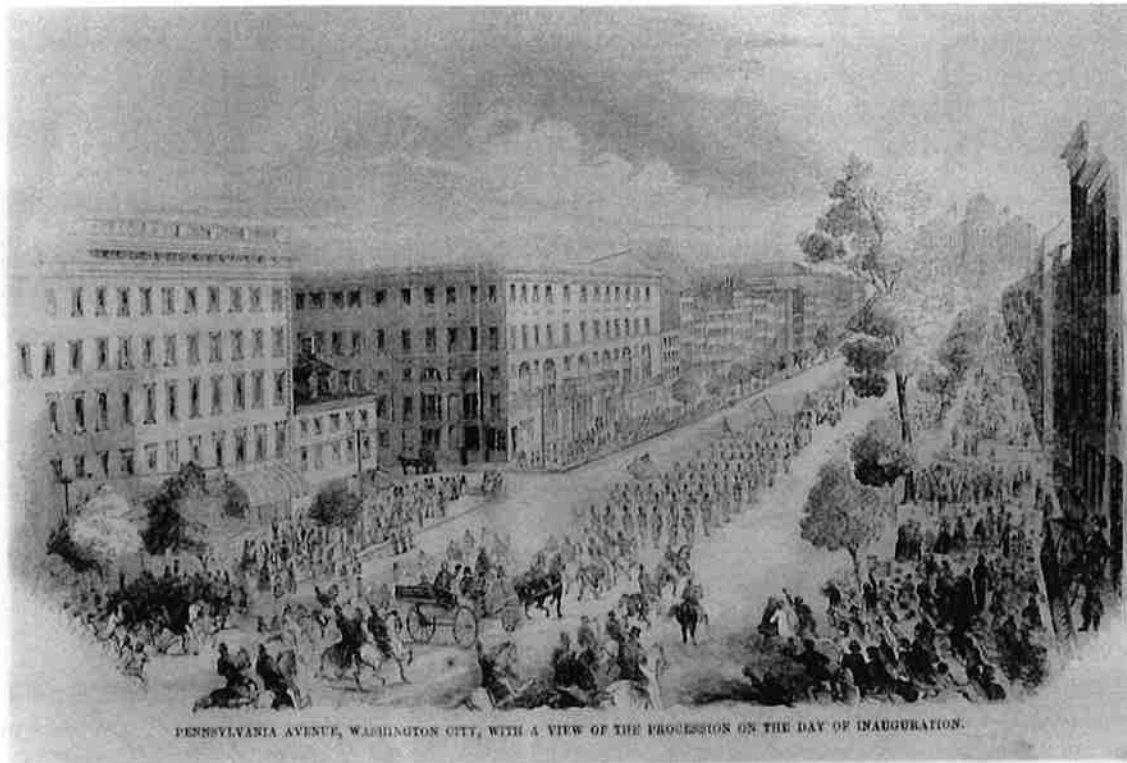
16th Inaugural
Monday, March 5, 1849

- Event:** Because March 4 fell on a Sunday Taylor was sworn in on March 5 and the country was technically without a President for one day. The official hostess at the inaugural festivities was Taylor's daughter Betty because his wife, Margaret, was ill.
- Location:** East Portico, U.S. Capitol. 30,000 spectators attended the ceremony and the address was one of the briefest on record.
- Parade/Procession:** The pre-inaugural parade was composed of veterans including a few from the Revolutionary War and soldiers who had defended the city from British attack in 1814. [*National Intelligencer*, March 6, 1849] The streets were decorated with flags and large crowds had assembled. Because Taylor was a career military officer his inaugural escort was composed of units he commanded at various times. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 62] Military bands, a tribe of Chippewas and Washington college students also participated in the procession.
- White House Events:** The Polks moved out of the White House on March 3. On the 5th a reception with a receiving line was held at the White House after the ceremony and the new President greeted thousands of visitors. [*National Intelligencer*, March 6, 1849]
- Other Details:** The election which Taylor won was the first in which the entire country voted on the same day. In 1845 Congress passed a bill which named the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November as election day. Tuesday was chosen because rural residents sometimes had to travel long distances to a polling place and travel on a Sunday could be offensive to some for religious reasons. For business purposes the first Monday of a month was avoided because it was typically the day on which merchants did their monthly accounts. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 61]
- Weather:** Cloudy with snow flurries.

Swearing In of Millard Fillmore / Funeral of Zachary Taylor

Wednesday, July 10 - Saturday, July 13, 1850

- Event:** President Fillmore assumed the office of President on July 10th after the death of President Taylor on July 9th from gastroenteritis, a little over a year after his inauguration.
- Location:** House Chamber, U.S. Capitol. The ceremony took place before Congress.
- Street decorations:** In Washington flags were at half-staff and hotels, offices and government buildings, including the White House, were draped in black and closed. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 68] In addition, gun salutes took place at military installations every 30 minutes from dawn to dusk on the 13th. [*National Intelligencer*, July 12, 1850]
- White House Events:** A public viewing was held on the 12th in the East Room of the White House as was the funeral service on the 13th.
- Procession:** The procession from the White House to "Congress Burying Ground" (Congressional Cemetery) was over two miles long. Hordes of out-of-town visitors came to witness the funeral; at least 100,000 people were in Washington during the transition of power. The catafalque was led by eight white horses, each of which was accompanied by an attendant sporting a turban. In addition to family, friends and government officials, the President's horse also participated with boots reversed in the stirrups. [*National Intelligencer*, July 15, 1850] The interment in Washington was only temporary; President Taylor is buried in Kentucky.



This 1853 image of Franklin Pierce's pre-inaugural procession is from *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion*. President-elect Pierce and President Millard Fillmore rode to the ceremony together in a carriage that was a gift of the citizens of Massachusetts. Pierce stood for most of the ride, waving and bowing to the spectators who lined the parade route.

Machen Print Collection, Columbia Historical Society

Inauguration of Franklin Pierce

17th Inaugural
Friday, March 4, 1853

Event: For his ceremony, President-elect Pierce chose to "affirm" rather than to "swear" the oath of office. Vice President-elect William King, ill from campaigning, had gone to Cuba to recuperate but had not recovered in time to return to Washington to take his oath. He was allowed to be sworn in while in Cuba after Congress passed a special act; this is the only time a President or Vice President has taken office outside the United States. Unfortunately King died shortly after taking his oath on March 24. In Washington 20,000 people arrived for the ceremony filling the city's hotels; on the eve of the celebration some tourists were allowed to sleep in the hallways of the Capitol. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 71]

Location: East Portico, U.S. Capitol. Between 10,000 and 15,000 spectators witnessed the ceremony from the Capitol grounds. [*National Intelligencer*, March 5, 1853]

Parade/Procession: President Fillmore and President-elect Pierce rode together to the Capitol in a carriage which was the gift of a group of citizens of Massachusetts to Pierce. He stood for most of the ride, bowing and waving to the spectators along the route. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 72] The pre-inaugural parade was composed for the most part of military units including infantry, artillery and marching bands. Political clubs carried banners and a fire department from Manhattan pulled a large engine. The procession was a mile long and required 20 minutes to pass. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 71]

White House Events: After the ceremony a public reception was held in the Executive Mansion's "circular room." [*National Intelligencer*, March 5, 1853]

Other Details: The night before the inauguration Pierce did not get much rest. He was serenaded for half the night by a band. The window of his hotel looked onto Lafayette Square where a new statue of Andrew Jackson drew crowds of tourists, many of who by late in the evening were drunk. Pierce heard them call to each other, "Let's have another drink and then go over and see if Andy is still riding his horse." [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 71]

When President Pierce took office he was in mourning. Between the election and inauguration his only child Ben was killed in a train accident. Because of this inaugural celebrations were limited and the inaugural ball was cancelled. Another frequently cited reason for the cancellation of the ball and for Pierce's wife's absence from Washington was a marital dispute. Pierce's wife had never wanted him to run for office but agreed that if nominated he should accept. On her arrival in Baltimore Jane Pierce learned the full extent of Pierce's enthusiastic campaign activities and of his efforts to conceal them from her. She was reportedly furious and refused to come to Washington. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 70]

Weather: Cold and windy with snow flurries. Snow began to fall during Pierce's inaugural address. The crowds thinned during his speech and the increasingly poor weather prevented any post-inaugural procession. The chilly weather was later blamed for former First Lady Abigail Fillmore's death a month later.



The highlight of James Buchanan's 1857 inaugural parade was the replica of the frigate *Constitution* that was pulled along Pennsylvania Avenue. As the ship moved down the avenue sailors rigged the sails for the crowd.

Machen Print Collection, Columbia Historical Society (*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, March 21, 1857)

Inauguration of James Buchanan

18th Inaugural
Wednesday, March 4, 1857

- Event:** 150,000 people had come to Washington for the inaugural celebration. The cost of the inauguration was rumored to have topped \$200,000. [*Avenue of the Presidents*, p.100]
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U.S. Capitol.
- Parade/Procession:** The pre-inaugural parade began 30 minutes late because President Pierce had gone to Willard's Hotel to wait for President-elect Buchanan's coach to pick him up. Unfortunately Pierce had neglected to mention this to anyone in the procession and on the morning of the ceremony he was nowhere to be found. The parade began only when he was found at Willard's and brought to the National Hotel, where President-elect Buchanan was staying. In the procession were the Marines in brightly colored uniforms, the Marine Band and the Keystone Club of Pennsylvania. They were followed by a 50-foot high float depicting the Goddess of Liberty pulled by six horses and a miniature of the historic frigate *Constitution* which featured 10 soldiers who rigged the sails as the ship moved along. [*New York Herald*, March 5, 1857; *Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 76] The parade to the White House from the Capitol included the same participants as the procession to the Capitol.
- White House Events:** The Pierces remained at the White House as houseguests for several days after the inauguration before returning to New Hampshire.
- Other Details:** Buchanan came to Washington in late January to begin preparations for his term. On his arrival a banquet was given in his honor at the National Hotel. By the following day almost everyone who had attended came down with "National Hotel disease," the name given to the mysterious virus. The virus was a serious one and several people died. Autopsies on some of the victims found traces of arsenic in their blood and rumors of an assassination plot circulated. Buchanan also became quite ill and returned home to Pennsylvania to recover. When he did return to Washington for inauguration day he swore off all food during the trip and only drank rum. On arrival in Washington he returned to the National Hotel where another, more serious illness manifested itself. Buchanan again became ill. His nephew and the grand marshal of the inaugural parade both died as a result. By inauguration day Buchanan was better but not fully recovered. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 75]
- Weather:** Bright, clear and cold.



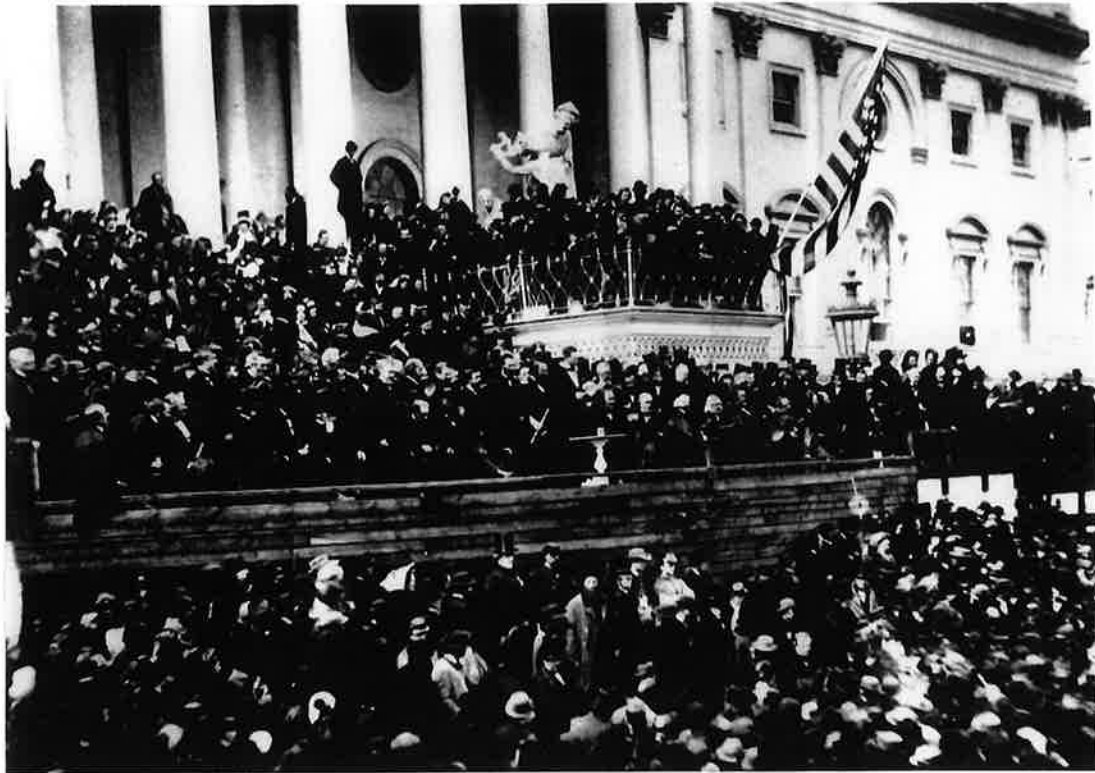
President Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural parade in 1861 took place under heavy security because of political turmoil. The inaugural parade to the Capitol was comprised mainly of soldiers who surrounded the presidential carriage on all sides. Only one float, representing the U. S. Constitution and the Union, was included.

Kelly Collection, Special Collections, Gelman Library, George Washington University

Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln

19th Inaugural
Monday, March 4, 1861

- Event:** The nation's mood overshadowed any cause for celebration that a presidential inauguration might provide. Lincoln's inauguration took place under the sign of fear and insecurity. Several southern states had already seceded and Lincoln and others in his entourage feared an attempt on his life therefore inaugural activities took place under heavy security.
- Allan Pinkerton had been hired to provide security for Lincoln as he made his way from Illinois to Washington; during the trip east Pinkerton foiled several devices to injure or kill the President-elect. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 78-9] For the first time in inaugural history safety precautions were taken; before the ceremony the Capitol platform was searched for explosives, armed soldiers were stationed along Pennsylvania Avenue and rifle squads were posted on rooftops to protect the incoming President during the parade and ceremony. Perhaps because of safety concerns President Buchanan met President-elect Lincoln at the Capitol rather than riding together in the procession.
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- Parade/Procession:** In spite of his advice to a friend that his wife remain at home Lincoln rode along the avenue in an open carriage. His carriage was surrounded by soldiers for safety and preceded by a group of miners. Over one thousand people marched in the pre-inaugural procession. The procession was almost entirely military with a few state delegations and 500 Washington Republicans. The only float included in the parade was one symbolizing the Constitution and the Union decorated in red, white and blue with a small girl to represent each of the 34 states. President Lincoln gave each of these children a kiss later in the day at the White House. [*Avenue of the Presidents*, p. 121]
- White House Events:** A public reception was held after the ceremony at the White House. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 86]
- Weather:** Cold and cloudy.



Although security again was tight in 1865, Abraham Lincoln, in front of the small pedestal table on the platform, delivered his second inaugural address to the crowd in this, one of the first photographs of the inaugural ceremony.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library

2nd Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln

20th Inaugural
Saturday, March 4, 1865

Event: 30,000 spectators attended the oath of office and stood in mud up to ten inches deep to listen to the inaugural address from the Capitol grounds. Andrew Johnson, the Vice President, was reported to be very drunk or hung-over on the day of the ceremony. Lincoln ordered that he not be allowed to speak outside the Senate Chamber where he had taken the oath of office. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 84]

Location: Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.

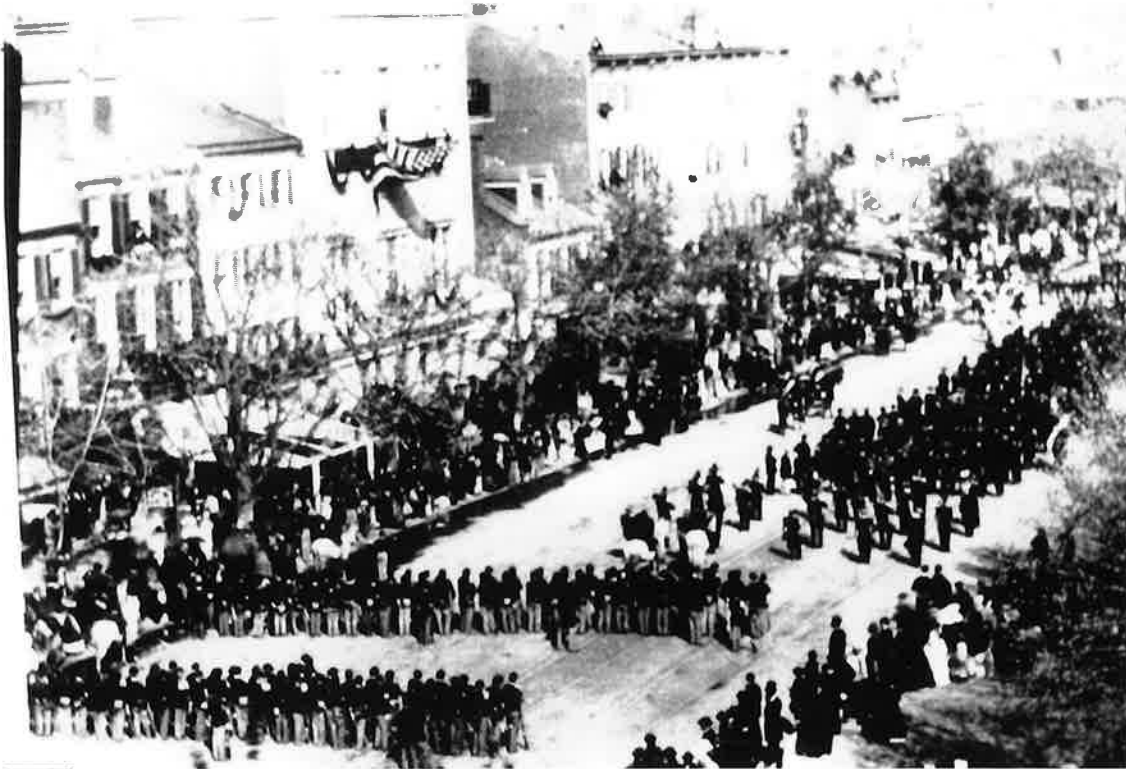
Parade: President Lincoln came to the Capitol early on the morning of the 4th to do some work; this was unexpected and the pre-inaugural parade formed without him. Crowds lined Pennsylvania Avenue and cheered Mrs. Lincoln, thinking the carriage also transported the President. The parades to and from the White House were similar. The inclusion of two companies of soldiers and a lodge of Odd Fellows marked the first time that African-Americans took part in the inaugural parade. Their participation was limited to marching in the parade however; rumors that inaugural ball tickets had been sold to them were quickly quelled. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 89] The parade included a model of the *Monitor* on wheels which featured a canon mounted in a turret that fired blanks in the air, a miniature printing press and a Temple of Liberty float. [*Avenue of the Presidents*, p.132] Walt Whitman was among the parade spectators and reported that "there were no soldiers, only a lot of civilians on horse-back, with huge yellow scarfs (sic) over their shoulders, riding around the carriage." [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 89]

White House Events: After the parade the White House was opened to the public and President and Mrs. Lincoln received visitors during the day and in the evening. Among those Lincoln greeted was Frederick Douglass.

Weather: Stormy with high winds and sheeting rain. Following several days of rain the ground was extremely muddy.

Other Details: Photos of the inaugural ceremony by a former associate of Mathew Brady reveal that John Wilkes Booth as well as four other accomplices in the Lincoln assassination plot were in attendance. Wilkes Booth had obtained priority seats thanks to a senator's daughter with whom he was romantically linked. He later wrote in his diary, "What an excellent chance I had to kill the President if I had wished on inauguration day." [*Washington in Focus*, p. 44-5; *Twenty Days*, p. 35]

The inaugural ball was held on Monday, March 6 because a public reception at the White House was held on Saturday and no events could be scheduled on Sunday because of religious reasons.



President Lincoln died on April 15, 1865 at the Peterson House across the street from Ford's Theater after being shot by John Wilkes Booth. On April 19 a funeral procession that was viewed by 30,000 people left the White House and traveled to the Capitol. A unit of African-American soldiers led the parade and 4000 African-American civilians in high silk hats and white gloves brought up the rear.

Kelly Collection, Special Collections, Gelman Library, George Washington University

Swearing In of Andrew Johnson / Funeral of Abraham Lincoln

Saturday, April 15 - Wednesday, April 19, 1865

Event: President Lincoln's death on the early morning of April 15th had been expected. Vice President Johnson was ready to take the oath of office by ten o'clock the same day. Members of his cabinet and the Chief Justice arrived at Johnson's suite over an hour late however because of the uproar in the streets of Washington. A manhunt was on for John Wilkes Booth and the accomplice who stabbed Secretary of State Seward.

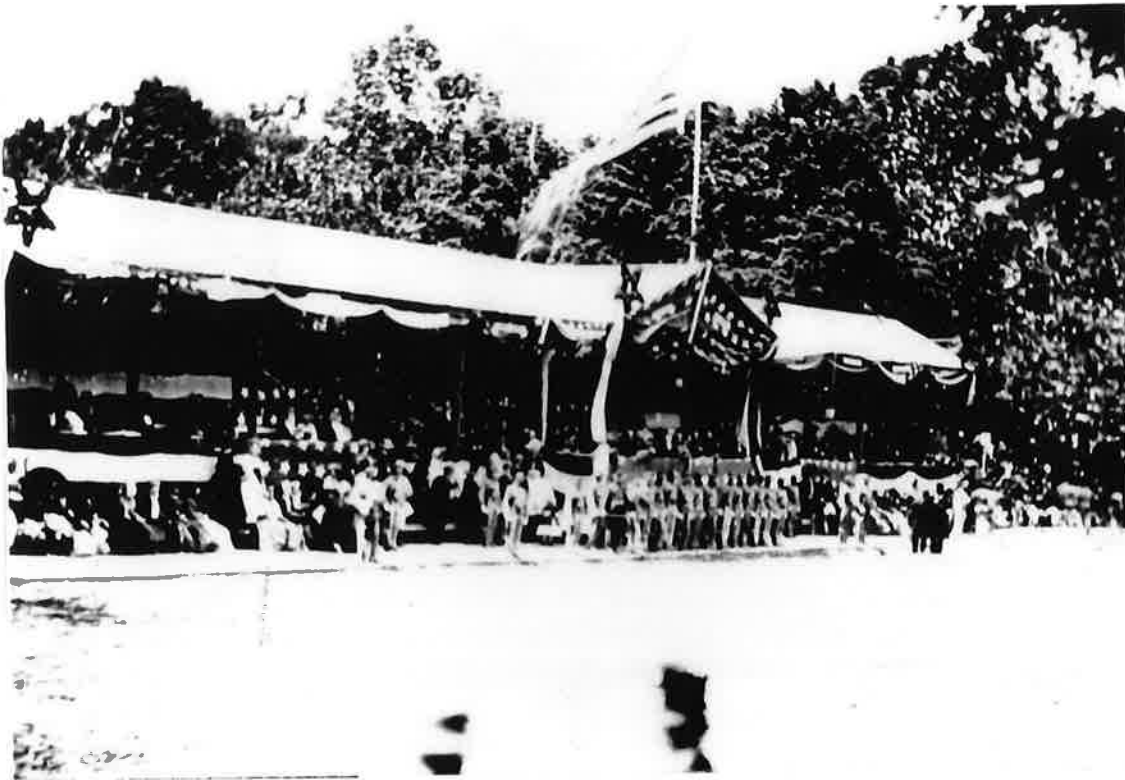
Location: Vice President Johnson took the oath of office in the room he rented at the Kirkland House in Washington.

White House Events: President Lincoln's body was prepared for burial in the White House. His autopsy and embalming were both performed there. He was brought to the East Room on the evening of the 15th and was lain out for public viewing on the 18th. Crowds began forming even before the doors opened at 9:30 am and soon the line was a mile long and six or seven people wide. The public filed through the East Room which had been draped with black streamers; two of the chandeliers in the room were concealed in black fabric and the room's eight mirrors were also covered. When the last mourners left carpenters constructed raised platforms to accommodate those attending the funeral service which was held in the East Room the next day. [*Twenty Days*, p. 120-3; *The President's House*, p. 420-1] After the funeral Mrs. Lincoln remained at the White House for six more weeks; President Johnson worked at an office in the Treasury Building opposite the Executive Mansion and did not take up residence until June 9th.

Street decorations: The façade of the White House was covered in black bunting as was Pennsylvania Avenue. The buildings were decorated to such a point that the supply of black crape in Washington was exhausted and messengers were sent to other cities to purchase it. [*Twenty Days*, p. 123]

Procession: The funeral procession left from the White House on Wednesday the 19th; over 30,000 people watched as it traveled down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol. Leading the procession was a unit of African-American soldiers. Following the ornate catafalque constructed to transport Lincoln's body was Lincoln's favorite horse, with boots reversed in the stirrups. Friends, family and officials followed the hearse. Bringing up the rear 4000 African-Americans in high silk hats and white gloves marched in columns of forty with joined hands. [*Avenue of the Presidents*, p. 135; *Twenty Days*, p. 130] Also marching were numerous military units, state delegations, fraternal lodges and government employees. ["Selected Parades...", np.] The procession ended at the Capitol where President Lincoln lay in state until Friday morning when his body would return to Illinois by train for burial. En route the train would stop in several cities so that the public could pay homage to the slain President.

Other Details: The plot to assassinate President Lincoln was actually carried out by four conspirators, one of whom seriously wounded Secretary of State Seward at his residence on Lafayette Square.



The end of the Civil War was celebrated in Washington by a two-day parade on May 23 and 24, 1865. Over 145,000 soldiers marched down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol during the two days, past President Andrew Johnson's flag-decorated reviewing stand in front of the White House.

Kelly Collection, Special Collections, Gelman Library, George Washington University

Grand Army of the Republic Victory Parade

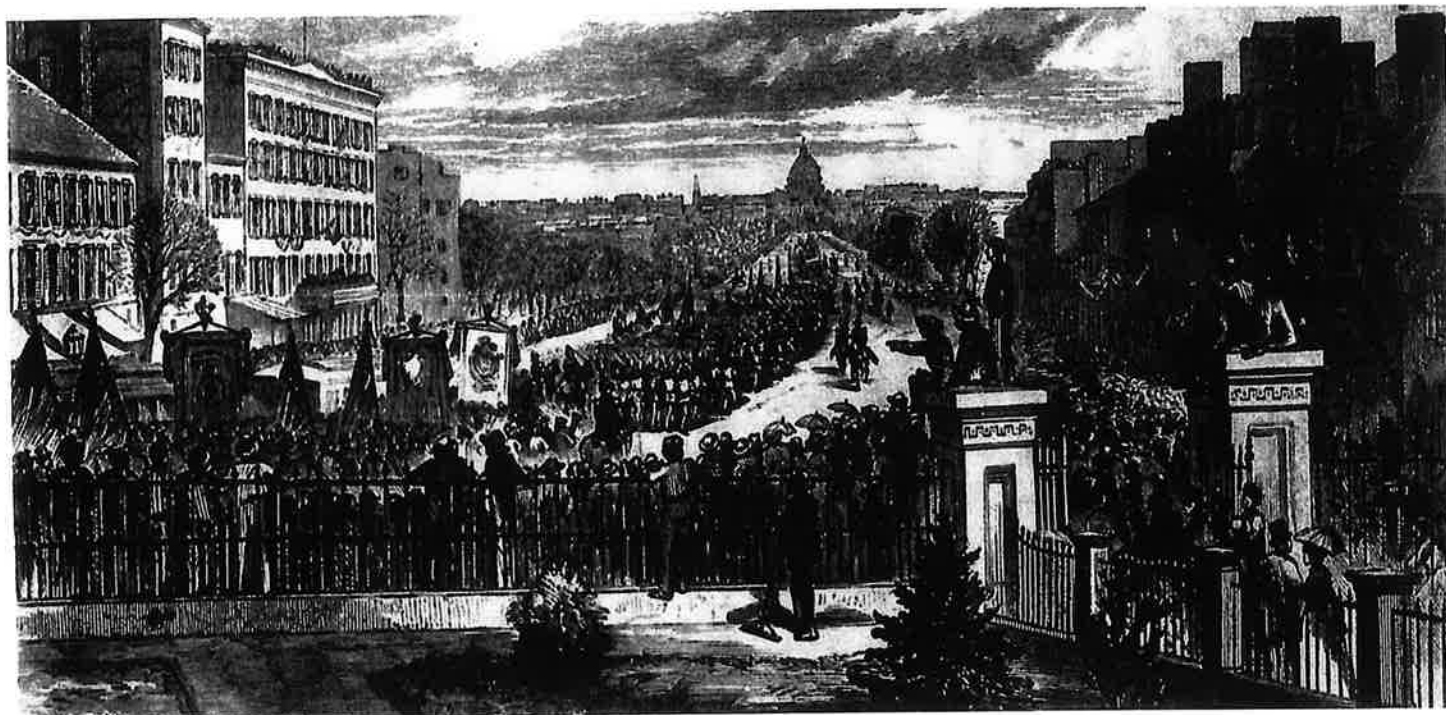
Tuesday, May 23 - Wednesday, May 24, 1865

- Event:** Although the Civil War was considered over in early April the principal celebration was not held until the end of May. Over 200,000 soldiers participated in a two-day parade on Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House. [*Glory Road*, p. 25] This parade was to be the soldiers' last official function before being decommissioned.
- Parade:** On the 23rd the six-hour parade of 80,000 soldiers was led by General George Meade, Commander of the Army of the Potomac on his horse Blackie. On the 24th General Sherman led 65,000 troops up Pennsylvania Avenue. Future President Grant who viewed the parade noted that because Sherman's units had been in occupied territory and had not received regular shipments of food, uniforms and provisions that they "were not so well-dressed as the Army of the Potomac." [*Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant*, p. 534-5] During the parade a wreath thrown by a spectator spooked General Custer's horse; the crowd cheered when Custer was able to bring the horse under control. As division commanders passed the President they lowered their swords and dipped their flags. Mother Bickerdyke, a nurse who had traveled with Sherman's troops, rode sidesaddle in the parade. [*Reveille in Washington*, p. 415-7]
- Reviewing Stands:** Four reviewing stands were constructed near the north front of the White House where President Johnson reviewed the troops, the Treasury Department building and 15th and Pennsylvania Streets. The covered stands were draped with American flags and red, white and blue bunting and decorated with flowers and evergreens. [*Washington in Focus*, p. 49, *Reveille in Washington*, p. 414]
- Weather:** Fine and sunny.

Inauguration of Ulysses S. Grant

21st Inaugural
Thursday, March 4, 1869

- Event:** A crowd of 20,000 spectators had assembled to watch the ceremony on the Capitol grounds. Grant's daughter Nellie watched the ceremony from her seat on the platform. Growing impatient she broke away from the relatives holding her and went to her father and held his hand as he finished his inaugural address. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 96-7]
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- Parade/Procession:** Participants in the pre-inaugural procession to the Capitol included a majority of military units totaling about 2,500 soldiers. Twenty marching bands also participated along with two companies of Zouaves and veterans of the War of 1812 rode in an omnibus. A company of African-American Volunteers also marched with rifles but on President Johnson's orders the rifles were unloaded. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 97] The parade units were the same marching to the Capitol and to the White House.
- White House Events:** After the ceremony there was no reception at the White House; instead the Grants returned to their I Street residence after the parade. They did not move into the White House until the end of the month. [*The President's House*, p. 454]
- Other Details:** The transition between Presidents had been a difficult one; tensions between parties ran high. President-elect Grant's carriage came to call for Johnson to participate in the inaugural procession but Johnson refused to come and did not participate in the inaugural festivities. [*New York Herald*, March 5, 1869]
- Reviewing Stand:** Although little information is available to support the fact this is said to be the first inauguration in which a presidential reviewing stand was used.
- Weather:** Rainy and overcast.



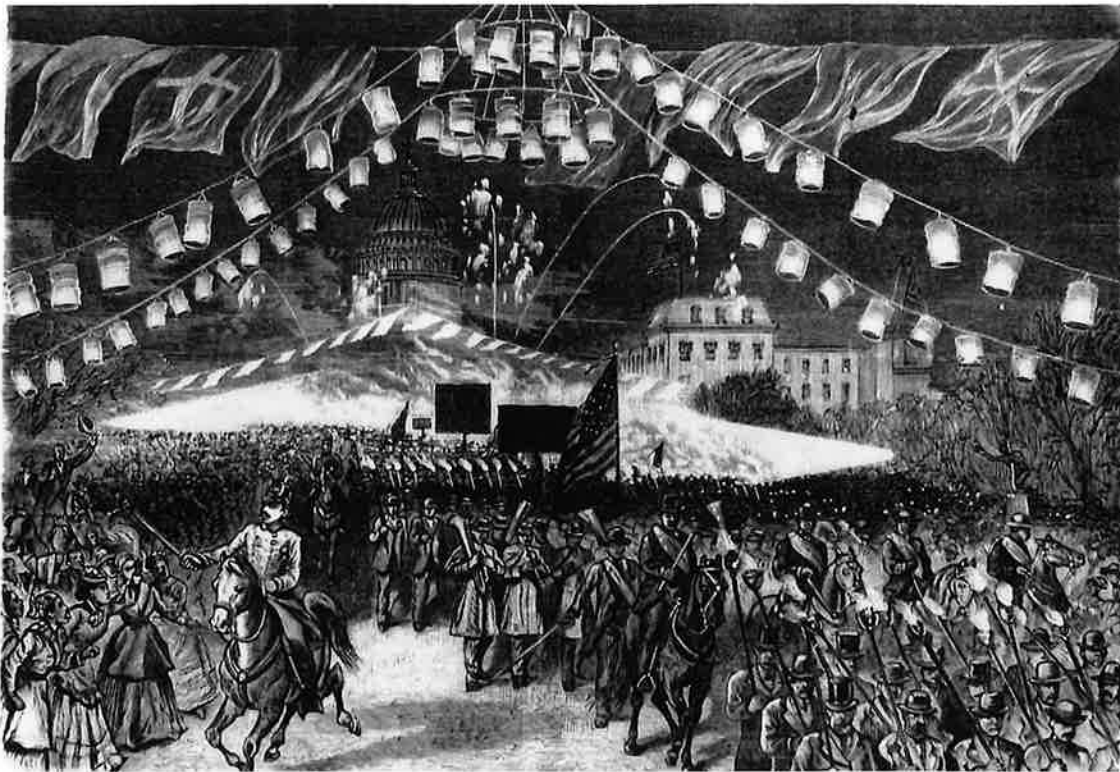
Only a limited number of spectators braved the freezing temperatures to watch Ulysses S. Grant's second inaugural parade in 1873. 12,000 participants marched both to and from the Capitol.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library

2nd Inauguration of Ulysses S. Grant

22nd Inaugural
Tuesday, March 4, 1873

- Weather:** Extremely cold with temperatures around zero, sleet, snow and wind.
- Event:** In spite of extreme winter weather Grant's second swearing in ceremony was held out of doors.
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- Reviewing Stand:** President Grant watched the parade for an hour from reviewing stand constructed in front of the White House. Flag-draped grandstands were also erected for the public.
- Parade/Procession:** The pre-inaugural parade began at the White House which conducted the President to the Capitol. After the inauguration a similar procession returned to the White House. 12,000 participants including the Boston Lancers and other militia units marched. [*Washington Star*, March 4, 1873] With the low temperature some musicians in the parade were not able to play because their instrument keys had frozen. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 99] The cold weather put a damper on the inaugural's festive atmosphere and limited the number of spectators to a hardy few.
- Other Details:** This was the first year that cadets from West Point and Annapolis participated in inaugural ceremonies. In spite of the temperature they were ordered to march without overcoats and while standing during the ceremony many lost consciousness and others suffered frostbite. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 100] An evening fireworks display was also held.



President Rutherford B. Hayes had little more than a military escort for his trip to and from the Capitol on March 5, 1877. In the evening a torchlight parade was spontaneously arranged. Participants walked to the White House from City Hall to the music of marching bands. They carried torches used in political rallies on a route decorated with Chinese lanterns and illuminated by skyrockets.

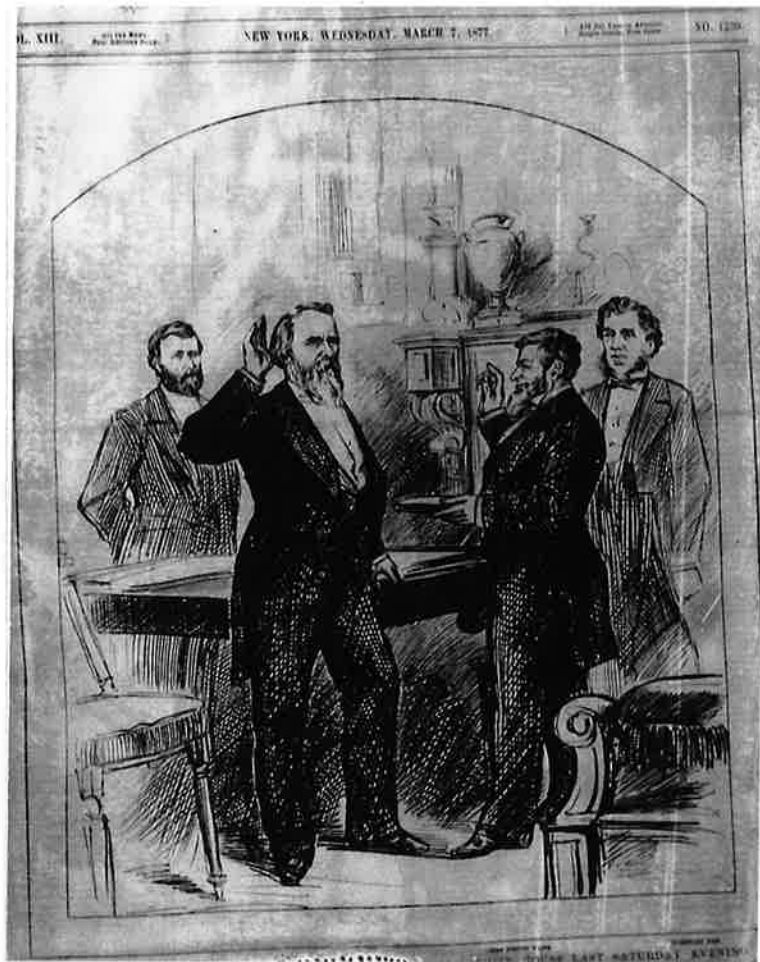
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Inauguration of Rutherford B. Hayes

23rd Inaugural

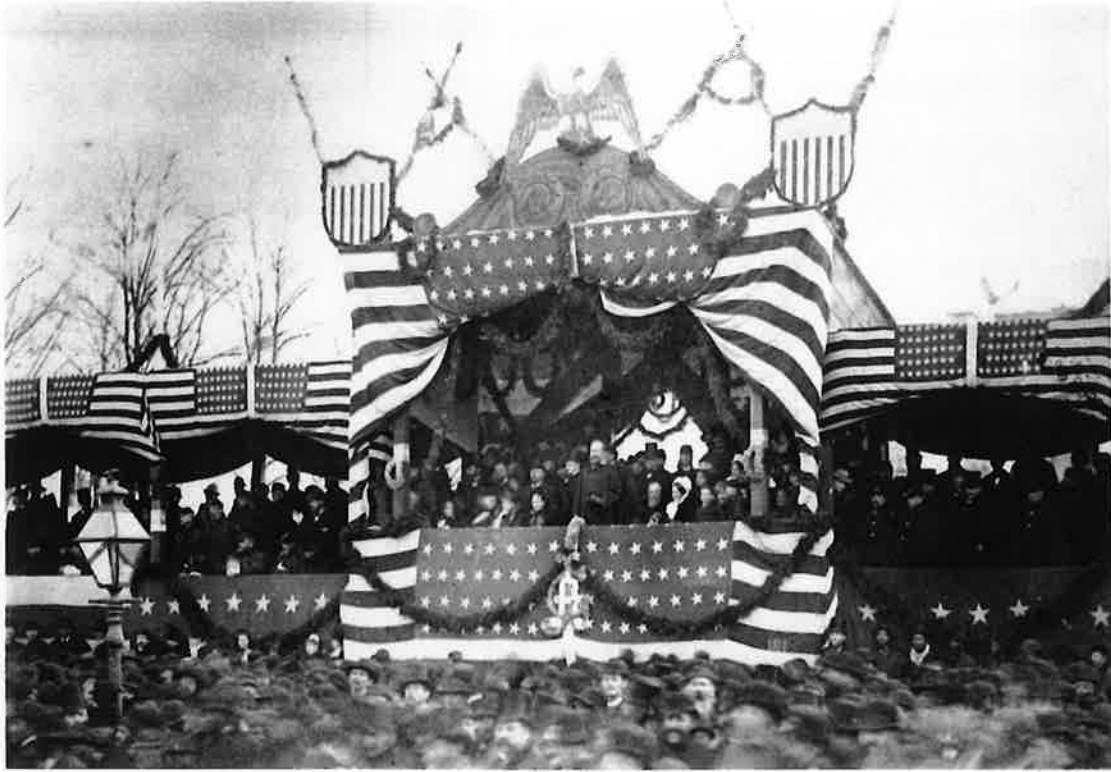
Saturday, March 3 and Monday, March 5, 1877

- Event:** For one day in the nation's history two men were President at the same time. President Hayes' election had been heavily contested; his election was only confirmed by the House of Representatives on March 2. Because of his opponent's rumored intention of taking the oath on Sunday, March 4 and the agreement of two Supreme Court Justices that Samuel Tilden had won the election, Hayes was sworn in at a secret ceremony on March 3 and again publicly on March 5.
- Location:** The March 3 ceremony was the first to take place in the White House; the Chief Justice administered the oath to President Hayes in the Red Room in the presence of President Grant. The March 5 ceremony took place on an outdoor platform on the East Portico of the U. S. Capitol and was attended by about 30,000 people.
- Parade/Procession:** Because the outcome of the election had been decided so late there was little time to make inaugural preparations. The pre-inaugural procession was, in reality, a military escort. The President and President-elect rode to the Capitol in a horse drawn carriage and were followed by the Washington Light Guard, the Columbus Cadets, the Washington Fire Department and the Secretary of State. The same procession accompanied the new President to the White House after the ceremony. Crowds cheered as the President passed and he tipped his hat in response. [*New York Herald*, March 6, 1877]
- White House Events:** After the ceremony the President received guests in the White House.
- Other Details:** Later in the day a torchlight procession consisting of 3000 participants was held along a decorated Pennsylvania Avenue. The parade began at City Hall and ended at the North Portico of the White House where President Hayes addressed the crowd. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 106; *Hail to the Chief*, p. 107] Torchlights were metallic torches, sometimes taking the fanciful forms, frequently used by marching clubs and in political campaign rallies in the late 1800s. Participants, simulating soldiers bearing arms, held them in various positions such as "parade rest" and "attention." ["Political Campaign Torches"] The route was decorated with Chinese lanterns, skyrockets and canons were fired, and bands played. [*Harper's Weekly*, March 24, 1877]
- Weather:** Chilly and overcast.



The first swearing in of a president to take place at the White House was on Saturday, March 3, 1877. Having lost the popular vote, but winning the electoral vote by only one vote, Rutherford B. Hayes was sworn in as president by Chief Justice Morrison Waite in a private ceremony in the Red Room during a dinner hosted by President Ulysses S. Grant.

Rutherford B. Hayes Library



President James A. Garfield reviewed his inaugural parade from an elaborately draped reviewing stand in front of the White House.

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress



For James A. Garfield's 1881 inaugural wooden arches were built along the parade route between the White House and the Capitol. Visible in the upper corners of the arch are the coats of arms of the states represented, state mottoes and dates of admission to the Union.

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

Inauguration of James A. Garfield

24th Inaugural
Friday, March 4, 1881

Event: Garfield's was the first inauguration where a mother had the pleasure of seeing her son be sworn in as President of the United States. Immediately after taking the oath the new President turned and kissed his mother and then his wife. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 107]

Location: Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.

Parade/Procession: Heavy snow had fallen in the days leading up to the inauguration; snow drifts and snow cleared by street cleaners forced parade officials to line up parade units as the procession advanced. Some participants could not join the pre-inaugural parade until it had almost reached Capitol Hill. In spite of the inclement weather the parade was the largest and most grandiose to date. Fifteen thousand marchers participated. It was composed, among others, of the President's select guard from Cleveland, the Marines and the Marine Band led by John Phillip Sousa and the Annapolis midshipmen. The *Washington Post* noted that African-American soldiers were particularly well represented in the parade. The parade spectators numbered around 30,000, a sizeable crowd considering the poor weather, and took two and a half-hours to pass.

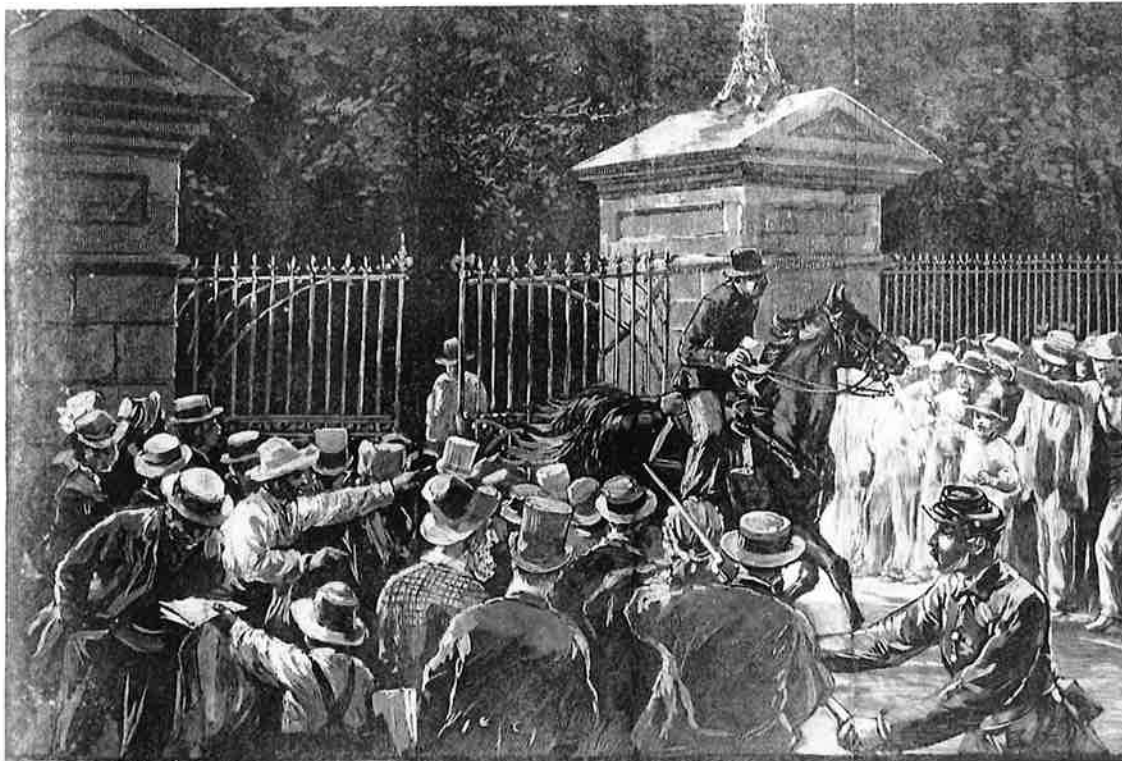
White House Events: A private reception was held for college friends of the President after the parade in the East Room. [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1881; *Life of James Garfield*, p. 497-8]

Reviewing Stand: The stand from which Garfield reviewed the parade was draped in flags, crowned by an eagle and placed in front of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue. Smaller flags were used for decoration, as was greenery. [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1881] After each parade unit passed its commander entered the reviewing stand and greeted the President with a handshake and a salute. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 112]

Street Decorations: The White House was draped in flags and crepe so much so that its façade could barely be seen and almost all of the buildings on Pennsylvania Avenue were decorated with bunting. [*Capital Losses*, p. 436] The columns of the North Portico of the mansion were draped with evergreen and a large red, white and blue star illuminated the pediment of the portico. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 109] Even the Jackson statue in Lafayette Park was decorated for the occasion. [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1881]

Inaugural Arches: For Garfield's inauguration a Teutonic style wooden arch was built at every intersection between the White House and the Capitol. Each arch represented both a northern and southern state. The main arch was seventy feet high, painted bronze and was located near the Treasury at Pennsylvania Avenue and F and 15th Streets. [*Capital Losses*, p. 436] Each arch bore the coats of arms of the states it represented, the state mottoes and dates of admission to the Union. [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1881]

Weather: Sunny, with snow on the ground.



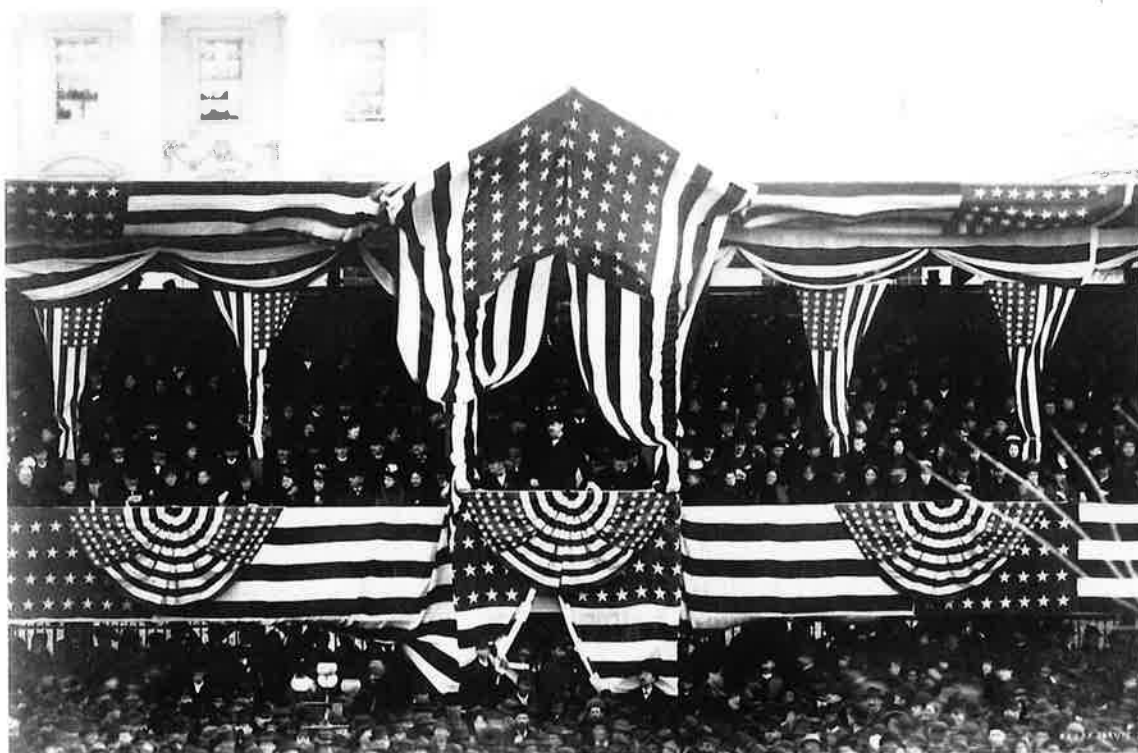
President James A. Garfield, after being wounded by an assassin on July 2, 1881, lay in the White House for almost two months before he died. Crowds regularly gathered outside the gates to hear news of the president's condition.

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

Swearing In of Chester A. Arthur / Funeral of James A. Garfield

Monday, September 19 - Thursday, September 22, 1881

- Event:** Chester A. Arthur took the oath of office on the death of President Garfield two months after being wounded by an assassin. During Garfield's illness crowds regularly assembled outside the White House to sit vigil. As the summer weather became progressively warmer Garfield was taken to the beach in New Jersey where he died. [*The President's House*, p. 525-7]
- Location:** The oath was given by a New York Supreme Court judge at Arthur's home in New York City. On his arrival in Washington Arthur took the oath a second time on September 22 in the office of the Vice President at the Capitol so that it could be entered into the records of the Supreme Court. Former Presidents Ulysses S. Grant and Rutherford B. Hayes were among the witnesses. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 113]
- Street Decorations:** The façade of the White House was almost completely draped in black. Columns and pillars were banded in black and fabric swags were hung from windows, eaves and the roof. [*Washington Post*, September 21, 1881] Government offices and stores were also draped with black bunting and closed.
- White House Events:** President Arthur did not take up residence at the White House until December 7 because of ongoing repair work started by the Garfields and expanded by Arthur. It was most likely because of these repairs that no services or viewing was held at the mansion. [*The President's House*, p. 528]
- Procession:** Garfield was brought directly to the Capitol Rotunda from New Jersey for the funeral. A funeral cortege took the body to the station for the funeral in Ohio. [*Avenue of the Presidents*, p. 165]



In 1885 President Grover Cleveland reviewed his inaugural parade with former President Chester A. Arthur from a flag-draped reviewing stand in front of the White House.

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

Inauguration of Grover Cleveland

25th Inaugural
Wednesday, March 4, 1885

- Event:** One hundred thousand visitors came to Washington for the inaugural festivities and spent over one million dollars in the city.
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol. Over 150,000 spectators watched the ceremony from the Capitol grounds.
- Parade/Procession:** The pre-inaugural procession grew too large and chaotic to accompany President-elect Cleveland to the Capitol. In order to insure his timely arrival only military units were allowed to escort him. Reports on the size of the parade vary; the parade was said to be between three and six hours and included between 25,000 and 50,000 participants. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 122; *Washington Post*, March 5, 1885] A large number of African-American soldiers participated and troops from Southern states marched for the first time since the Civil War indicating reconciliation between the North and the South. [*New York Herald*, March 5, 1885]
- Reviewing Stand:** President Cleveland and former President Arthur watched the inaugural parade from a reviewing stand draped in flags placed in front of the White House. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 116]
- Street decorations:** Pennsylvania Avenue was decorated with large floral arrangements. Welcome banners for officials were fashioned from red and white roses and floral wreaths featuring photos of Cleveland and Vice President Hendricks hung on lamp posts and buildings. The public grandstands were adorned with other arrangements. By the time of President Cleveland's return to the White House the public had torn down all of the floral decorations and threw handfuls of petals at the parade as it passed.
- White House Events:** After the parade a private luncheon was held and former President Arthur was invited. There was no public reception and the gates to the White House were barred at the end of the luncheon. [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1885]
- Other Details:** Evening fireworks were fired from grounds south of the White House known as the "white lot," probably the Ellipse. [Official Inaugural Program 1885, Office of the Curator, Architect of the Capitol]
- Weather:** Sunny and spring-like.



Poor weather hindered the celebrations for Benjamin Harrison's inauguration in 1889. Only 4,000 spectators attended the outdoor swearing in ceremony. In spite of the weather the parade was not canceled and workers had to quickly add a roof to the president's reviewing stand.

Machen Print Collection, Columbia Historical Society

Inauguration of Benjamin Harrison

26th Inaugural
Monday, March 4, 1889

- Weather:** Hard rain and muddy. Fifty thousand visitors had come to Washington for the inauguration but the poor weather kept them indoors, mainly in taverns and bars.
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol. The threat of an indoor inauguration in the Senate Chamber which could not accommodate the large crowds in town for the ceremony made President Harrison declare that if his grandfather could take his oath in inclement weather he could as well. William Henry Harrison, Benjamin Harrison's grandfather, was said to have died of a cold caught on inauguration day however.
- Event:** Only 4000 spectators attended the outdoor ceremony and of the 1,500 expected platform guests only 200 attended. In spite of the rain and cold President Harrison gave a relatively long inaugural address and many spectators and guests, including his wife and daughter, left early. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 126-8]
- Parade/Procession:** The pre-inaugural procession was limited to two units because of the weather: the District militia and the 70th Indiana Regiment. After the ceremony Harrison and Cleveland returned to the White House together in an open carriage with Cleveland holding an umbrella over the two of them. [*Evening Transcript*, March 7, 1889] A parade was held on the return to the White House but the number of participants recorded varies. The Democrats put the parade participants at 3,000 while the Republicans claimed that over 20,000 marched. Buffalo Bill and his Wild West troop were particularly cheered by spectators. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 118]
- White House Events:** After the ceremony Cleveland hosted a lunch for President Harrison. [*Evening Transcript*, March 7, 1889]
- Reviewing Stand:** President Harrison reviewed the parade for an hour from a stand to which a roof had been hastily added.
- Street Decorations:** Rain destroyed all of the outdoor decorations and grandstands were too wet to be sat upon. The rain caused the dyes used to color the muslin draped on storefronts and grandstands to run, turning red, white and blue to pinkish-purplish hues. [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1889]
- Other Details:** After the inauguration a number of deaths took place among the 70th Indiana Regiment which were attributed to the bone chilling rain and wind of March 4th. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 118] An evening fireworks display was planned but had to be cancelled because of poor weather.



In 1893 thousands of participants in Grover Cleveland's inaugural parade had to cancel because a snowstorm prevented them from arriving in Washington. Cleveland reviewed the parade for an hour from a large stand in front of the White House.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library

2nd Inauguration of Grover Cleveland

27th Inaugural
Saturday, March 4, 1893

- Weather:** The night before the inauguration a sudden snowstorm turned the streets of Washington white. Snow covered public grandstands and fierce winds knocked down decorations on Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Event:** In spite of the weather over 10,000 people patiently waited on the east grounds of the Capitol to see President Cleveland take the oath of office.
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- Parade/Procession:** President-elect Cleveland met President Harrison at the White House for the procession to the Capitol. The pre-inaugural parade route was deserted. Streets filled with snow rendered the short trip laborious for the small escort of Marines, District militia and cabinet members who rode in closed carriages. Later in the afternoon the inaugural parade was held. Many of the expected 60,000 participants had to cancel because they were not able to reach Washington. [*Evening Star*, March 4, 1893] Reports on the length of the parade vary; marchers paraded for three or five hours according to various accounts. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 132; *Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 120; *Washington Post*, March 5, 1893]
- White House Events:** After the inauguration President Cleveland returned to the White House to have lunch before the start of the parade.
- Reviewing Stand:** President Cleveland reviewed the parade for one hour from a stand erected in front of the White House. [*Frank Leslie's Weekly*, March 9, 1893] The executive stand was 150-foot deep and could seat 1100 people. In the center was an arch 43-foot high with the arms of the United States, on either side were the seals of New York and Illinois, decorated with artificial flowers. As the parade passed the President lifted his hat and bowed. [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1893] A second stand was constructed at 23rd Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.



In 1897 William McKinley set a precedent by scheduling the start of his inaugural parade from the White House after lunch. 20,000 participants marched in the procession attended by 30,000 spectators.

Division of Political History, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Inauguration of William McKinley

28th Inaugural
Thursday, March 4, 1897

- Event:** The outdoor ceremony was witnessed by 30,000 spectators. One guest at the festivities was Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii; the Hawaiian Islands had recently been annexed by the United States. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 125]
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- Parade/Procession:** The pre-inaugural procession was large; the military escort numbered 5,000. After the ceremony President McKinley and former President Cleveland returned to the White House together. The inaugural parade was held after a break for lunch. 20,000 participants marched in the parade. Windows and rooms overlooking the parade route were rented out for astronomical fees. Single windows began at \$25 and a three-window room could let for \$300. One senator paid \$1000 for a room, with lunch included, at the Willard. [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1897]
- White House Events:** The President hosted a luncheon in the State Dining Room of the White House. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 125]
- Reviewing Stand:** The President reviewed the entirety of the three-hour parade from a glass-fronted reviewing stand. A house in Chevy Chase, Maryland, constructed in 1897, was later built using parts of the reviewing stand in its porch. [*Washington Post*, May 7, 1966]
- Street Decorations:** Flags hung from all manner of vertical supports. Photos of McKinley and Vice President-elect Hobart decorated Pennsylvania Avenue and signs indicating the theme of the parade, "The Nation's Choice," were plentiful. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 136]
- Other Details:** The inauguration of William McKinley was the first presidential inaugural to be filmed and the first inaugural address to be recorded.
- Weather:** Warm and sunny.



President William McKinley was escorted to the Capitol for his 1901 inauguration by a group of veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic. After the ceremony he watched the three-hour parade of 37,000 participants from a glass enclosed reviewing stand.

Kelly Collection, Special Collections, Gelman Library, George Washington University

2nd Inauguration of William McKinley

29th Inaugural
Monday, March 4, 1901

Event: A new platform was constructed at the Capitol which could seat 4,000 people and an additional area allowed 7,000 more places.

Unfortunately, crowds at this inauguration were much smaller than in previous years. The weather put a damper on the festivities and even Mrs. McKinley left the ceremony early. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 139]

Location: Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.

Parade/Procession: The President and Vice President-elect arrived at the Capitol separately. Because Vice President-elect Theodore Roosevelt had a separate military escort he was excluded from the pre-inaugural procession. In spite of the weather President McKinley rode to the ceremony in an open carriage. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 139] President McKinley was escorted to the Capitol by veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic; these soldiers initially withdrew from the inaugural parade because they were assigned an undesirable position in the line-up. They only consented to participate after being asked to be the President's official escort. [Theodore Bingham Papers, Library of Congress] The parade was predominantly military in character although some civic organizations and marching bands were also included. Puerto Rican soldiers also made their first appearance in the parade making this the first time that soldiers of a U.S. territory had participated in an inaugural.

Reviewing Stand: President McKinley reviewed the three-hour parade of over 37,000 participants from his glass-enclosed stand erected between the White House and the State, War and Navy Building (the Old Executive Office Building). [Theodore Bingham Papers, Library of Congress] The President responded to the marchers by nodding and tipping his hat as they passed. Tickets for public seating sold out well before the ceremony and for the first time the public stands were designed to enhance the overall appearance of the festivities. Terraced stands with white fronts and yellow facings were built 30 feet above street level. [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1901]

Street Decorations: A Court of Honor was built between 15th and 17th streets on Pennsylvania Avenue. The area was decorated in red, white and blue bunting and was bordered with free-standing 40-foot high columns topped with spheres of light bulbs, even on the north grounds driveway; it was constructed to resemble the Alexandre III Bridge at the Paris Expo. After the inaugural parade President McKinley reviewed the veterans in the Court of Honor. With the exception of the White House itself all of Pennsylvania Avenue was decorated for the occasion. "There was scarcely a housefront that was not almost hidden from view by red, white and blue bunting." [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1901]

Weather: Pouring rain mixed with sleet. The *Washington Post* reported that umbrella vendors did a brisk business.



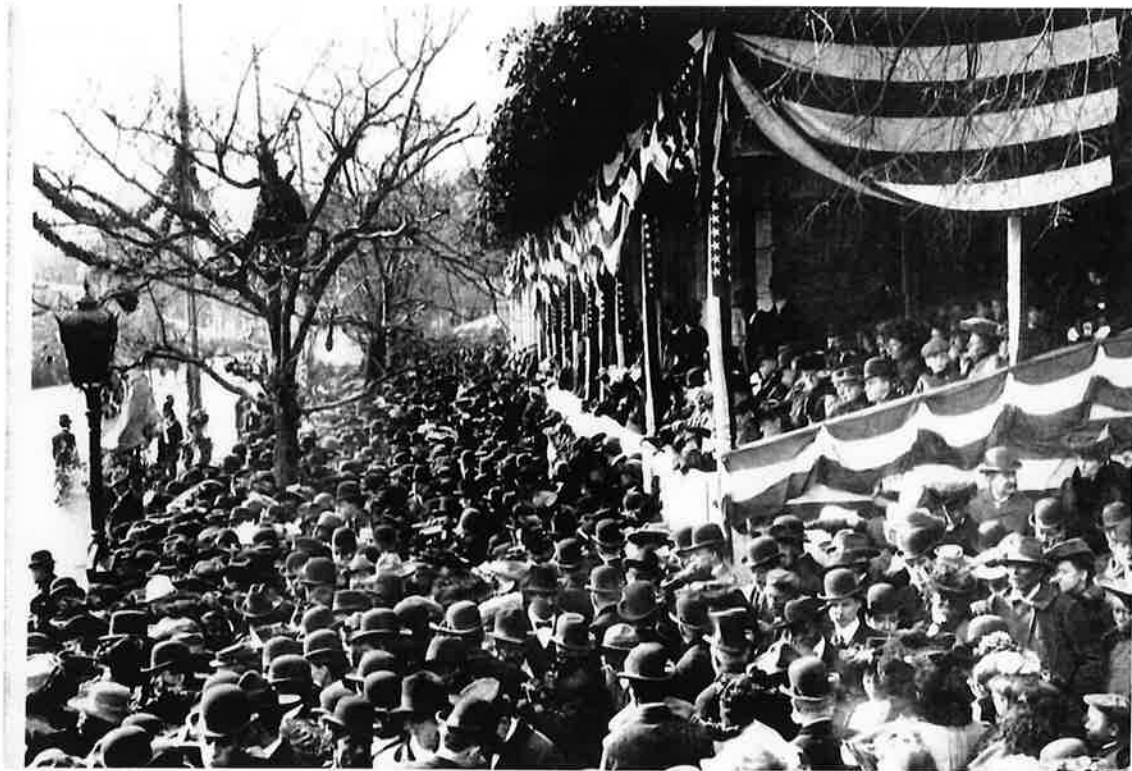
President William McKinley was assassinated during a trip to Buffalo, New York in 1901. His body was brought back to Washington and taken to the White House. The following day the casket was taken to the Capitol for a state funeral. After the service McKinley's body was transported by train to Canton, Ohio for burial. This image probably represents the procession from the White House to the Capitol.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library

Swearing In of Theodore Roosevelt / Funeral of William McKinley

Saturday, September 14 - Tuesday, September 17, 1901

- Event:** Vice President Roosevelt became President on the death of President McKinley a week after being wounded by an assassin's bullet at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. Word that President McKinley's condition had worsened reached Roosevelt when he was hiking in the Adirondacks. Searchers used rifle shots and megaphones to attract the attention of the Vice President's climbing party. Roosevelt descended Mount Marcy in the dark and traveled all night in order to reach Buffalo only to learn on his arrival that the President had died a few hours earlier. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 142]
- Location:** Secretary of War Root, who had been present when Lincoln's successor assumed the presidency, pronounced the oath of office at the home of Roosevelt's friend, Ansley Wilcox, in Buffalo, New York.
- Street Decorations:** In Washington the White House flag flew at half-mast and the door bore a sign marked "Closed." [*The President's House*, p. 646]
- White House Events:** President McKinley's body traveled to Washington and was brought to the East Room of the White House.
- Procession:** Although no procession had been officially organized the route from the station to the White House was lined with thousands of mourners who spontaneously sang the hymn "Nearer, my God to thee." The catafalque used to carry McKinley was the same one used to carry Presidents Lincoln and Garfield. [*The President's House*, p. 647]
- Other Details:** The following day a state funeral was held at the Capitol. After the service the casket was taken to Canton, Ohio for burial.



President Theodore Roosevelt's charismatic personality and popular appeal ensured a large celebration for the 1905 inauguration. Over 200,000 spectators witnessed the inaugural parade. Tickets for seats in the public grandstands were sold in Washington department stores for a nominal fee. Bleachers featuring a roof or overhang usually commanded a slightly higher price.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library

Inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt

30th Inaugural
Saturday, March 4, 1905

- Event:** Theodore Roosevelt was a popular figure and his inauguration brought masses of people to Washington. Trains arriving in the city were filled to capacity; some trains were not even able to enter the station and instead discharged their passengers in rail yards. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 145]
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- Parade/Procession:** Roosevelt's inaugural parade was one of great color and pageantry reflective of the President's charismatic personality. Over 35,000 men representing the President's past and diverse interests passed in review in a five hour long procession. Participants included the Rough Riders who served as the President's personal escort and a large contingent of miners who were thankful for the President's help in resolving 1902 coal strike. Many Native American tribes (Comanches, Nez Percé, Utes, Sioux, and Apaches, including Geronimo) also participated as well as African-American Cavalry troopers who were with the President at the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Puerto Rican and Filipino soldiers, cowboys from South Dakota, Uncle Sam, traditional military units and bands, students from Howard University and members of Republican clubs all marched as well. [Official White House Diary, 1905, RG 42, National Archives; *Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 132-3] The crowd was estimated at 200,000 spectators.
- Reviewing Stand:** The President watched the parade from his box at the Court of History, constructed on Pennsylvania Avenue between 15th and 17th Streets, where statues of famous Americans lined the streets. Roosevelt frequently responded to the cheers of the crowd and marchers with shouts of his own and called out to participants he knew. When musical groups passed the reviewing stand the President swayed in time with the music. Roosevelt was quite pleased with the celebration and is said to have remarked, "It was a great success... And did you note that bunch of cowboys? Oh, they are the boys who can ride. It really touched my heart." [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 132-3] Public seating was in a Beaux-Arts style, one-story long rectangular pavilion with tiered spectator seats framed by alternating single and double columns. The presidential party was seated in a separate structure that jutted out from the spectator pavilion. The Court of History was decorated with statues of notable men originally used at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in St. Louis. [*Capital Losses*, p. 434]
- Street Decorations:** Over 50,000 American flags decorated Pennsylvania Avenue. Public grandstands had been installed the length of the avenue as well as cordons to hold back the massive crowd. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 145]
- White House Events:** A late luncheon was held for the Rough Riders, Roosevelt's personal escort in the parade, but Roosevelt was delayed by the parade and arrived late. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 134] A fireworks display concluded the inaugural festivities and included the illumination of the south front of the White House.
- Weather:** Sunny and clear with cold wind.



President William Howard Taft's 1909 inaugural took place during a violent blizzard. Although the swearing-in ceremony took place indoors, the weather abated somewhat after the ceremony and the parade was held. In this image workers are clearing snow off the parade route in front of the public grandstands along Pennsylvania Avenue.

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

Inauguration of William Howard Taft

31st Inaugural
Thursday, March 4, 1909

- Weather:** President Taft's inauguration was marked by a blizzard which forced the swearing in ceremony to be held indoors. This move required a special congressional resolution which was voted just before the ceremony. President Taft was at first reluctant to move the ceremony indoors; he only relented when reminded that it would be cruel to force the Supreme Court Justice to stand outdoors. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 135]
- Location:** Senate Chamber, U. S. Capitol.
- Parade/Procession:** The pre-inaugural procession departed from the White House where President-elect Taft had spent the night at President Roosevelt's invitation. Taft's escort to the Capitol was composed of the band of the Philippine Constabulary, the Black Horse Troop from Cleveland and veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic. Four thousand hardy spectators cheered the procession as it passed the Court of Honor. After the ceremony Roosevelt left directly for the train station. Because of this, Mrs. Taft was able to accompany her husband back to the White House in the same carriage thereby setting a precedent for presidential spouses. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 150, 152] By afternoon, the Arctic weather abated and allowed the parade to proceed although the procession was not as festive as planned. The snowstorm had prevented many expected participants from arriving and the 40,000 who did march were forced to wear coats over their colorful uniforms muting the spirit of celebration somewhat. The President reviewed the three hour parade from the Court of Honor.
- White House Events:** Mrs. Taft hosted a luncheon after the inaugural ceremony while President Taft reviewed the parade. In spite of freezing temperatures 50,000 spectators braved the cold and watched an hour long evening fireworks display from the Ellipse. President and Mrs. Taft also watched the show from the South Portico of the White House.
- Other Details:** Sympathizing with the large number of people who, because of the weather, arrived too late to participate in the inaugural parade, President Taft opened the White House to the public the day after the inauguration. 7,000 members of the New York Seventh Regiment, who had been delayed and missed the parade, refused to return home without marching through the Court of Honor. President Taft graciously allowed them to march and reviewed the troops from the executive reviewing stand. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 152]



Despite freezing temperatures, William Howard Taft's 1909 inaugural parade took place. Soldiers march down Pennsylvania Avenue wearing coats over their uniforms. Even the small dog in the foreground sports a coat. The decorations on the building above, installed before the blizzard, have obviously suffered the effects of the wind.

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress



This stereograph card shows a suffragette protest held the day before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration in 1913. To the right, the grandstands erected for the inaugural parade can be seen. Tickets for the grandstands were sold to the public for \$1 a seat by the inaugural committee.

Charles Kelly Collection, Special Collections, Gelman Library, George Washington University

National American Woman Suffrage Association Protest

Monday, March 3, 1913

Event: On March 3, 1913 a group of suffragists began their campaign on behalf of women's suffrage in Washington. The first protest took the form of a parade or pageant as it was referred to by the press of the day. Women carrying banners and signs, women on horseback, all female marching bands and floats traveled down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the White House. The participants numbered 8,000. [*Jailed for Freedom*, p. 35] This officially sanctioned event was the first in a long campaign waged at the White House by militant suffragettes.

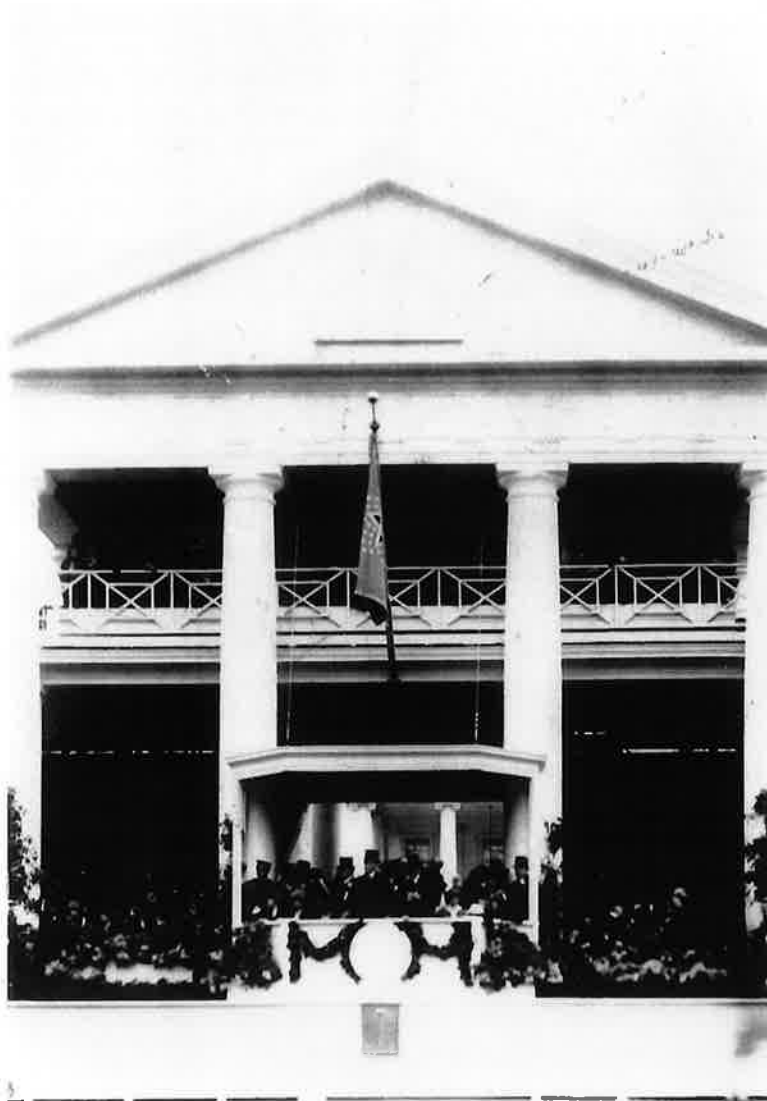
Background: The protestors had been organized by Alice Paul, then of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Later Paul would create the National Woman's Party (NWP) which would be known for its radical beliefs and dramatic protest tactics. Paul believed that the support of the President was necessary to enact legislation to allow women the right to vote. Organizing the protest the day before Woodrow Wilson was to take office, she did not waste a day in her battle to make him believe that women and their potential votes could play a crucial part in the political process.

Parade: The marchers were led by Inez Milholland who, on a white horse and dressed in purple flowing robes, played the role of "herald." Along with gold, these colors represented the woman's suffrage movement and banners bearing all three were carried by marchers. The parade was divided into three sections, each illustrating a theme. Part one was composed of floats representing countries where women could vote and where they had no vote. Part two represented the fight for suffrage that had been in progress for 75 years and part three showed that while men and women both worked and contributed to the productivity of a state only men were represented in its government. Groups such as nurses, farm women, and actresses paraded wearing clothes representing their professions and women from outside Washington also sponsored floats. From Philadelphia there was a Liberty Bell float and a group from Baltimore contributed "six golden chariots." [*Washington Post*, March 4, 1913]

Because of the presidential inauguration the following day the avenue was crowded with tourists and Washingtonians preparing for the festivities. Although permission had been obtained for the demonstration, marchers had to fight to advance up the street. While many of the parade spectators simply watched and applauded the procession, some became increasingly rowdy. The police on hand could barely control the increasingly rowdy crowds. The women were jeered, slapped and spat on. A brawl soon ensued and over 100 people went to the hospital. Peace was only restored when a cavalry unit from Ft. Myer was brought in to control the crowd at the request of Secretary of War Stimson whose daughter-in-law participated in the parade. [*Evening Star*, August 5, 1970]

Although the suffrage procession was in fact a protest march grandstand tickets were sold to the public for \$1 a seat by the inaugural committee. [*Washington Post*, March 4, 1913; *Evening Star*, August 5, 1970] First Lady Mrs. Taft and Miss Helen Taft watched the parade (in an unofficial capacity) from reviewing stands erected for the inauguration and "left in disgust." [*Washington Post*, March 4, 1913]

Significance: This parade was the first protest in a six year campaign to enlist the President's aid in the women's suffrage movement and the first time that the White House targeted by protestors to express public disapproval of current events.. From 1913 until 1919 women regularly picketed outside the White House gates. The 1917 White House pickets were particularly violent. Women protestors were regularly arrested and jailed on false charges such as "obstruction of traffic." Many of the jailed women went on hunger strikes and were forcibly fed while incarcerated.



President Woodrow Wilson's 1913 reviewing stand was designed by prominent Washington architect Waddy B. Wood. The design for the stand was inspired by Wilson's boyhood home in Staunton, Virginia.

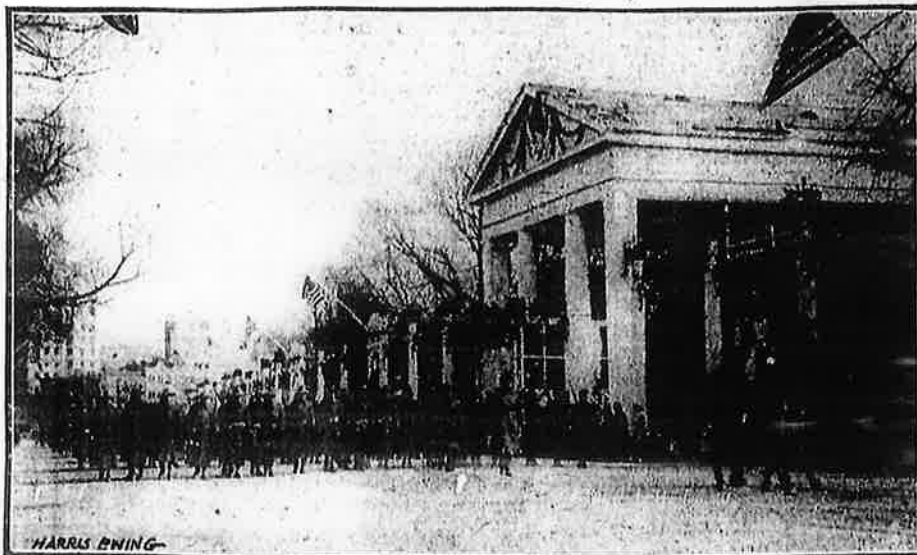
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

Inauguration of Woodrow Wilson

32nd Inaugural
Tuesday, March 4, 1913

- Event:** President-elect Wilson's previous position as president of Princeton University brought many students to Washington for the inauguration.
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol. Over 100,000 spectators, one of the largest crowds to date, attended the ceremony on the Capitol grounds.
- Parade/Procession:** Although crowds lined the route from the White House to the Capitol the pre-inaugural procession was minimal. The post-inaugural parade, which began at 3 pm, however lasted hours and included 40,000 participants. Over 250,000 cheering spectators watched the parade pass in review. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 158] 6,000 "college men" marched including 1,000 from Princeton. A large military presence was also noticeable, with all branches of the armed services represented. Among the young soldiers from the U. S. Military Academy participating in the parade was Dwight D. Eisenhower. Other participants included veterans, cowboys, Native Americans and civic organizations. [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1913] Stationed at intervals along the parade route were farriers wearing red shirts; mounted participants were encouraged to seek out their help in case of any equine emergency. [Official White House Diary, March 4, 1913, RG 42, National Archives]
- Reviewing Stand:** The executive reviewing stand was designed in a Greek revival style by Washington architect Waddy B. Wood. The presidential party section was an octagonal room which jutted forward from a structure of four large columns and a Greek temple-like roof. Running underneath the roof and behind the columns was a long rectangular tiered grandstand. The stand's design echoed Wilson's southern heritage and his boyhood home in Staunton, Virginia. [*Capital Losses*, p. 434] Because of the large crowds watching the parade the fire marshal banned smoking in the crowds and tall hats in the stands.
- The view of the White House grounds were obscured not only by the reviewing stand, but by a large screen of greenery that ran along the Pennsylvania Avenue fence. The screen was almost as tall as the reviewing stand, with small arched openings at the gate piers.
- Street Decorations:** The colors used to decorate the parade route were American flags; in addition black and orange, the colors of Princeton University, were also prominent. [*Washington Star*, March 4, 1913]
- Weather:** Warm and balmy.
- Other Details:** The traditional inaugural ball was vetoed by the President because of its "frivolity" and a fireworks display was held on the Ellipse in its place. President and Mrs. Wilson watched from the South Portico. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 142]

***DISTRICT GUARD, AT THE COURT OF HONOR,
CHEERED BY THROGS ALONG THE ROUTE***



The troops, which recently returned from the border, attracted wide interest along the line of march. The compared favorably with the regulars and have won high praise from army officers.

At President Wilson's second inauguration in 1917, over 19,000 participants marched past the Court of Honor in front of the White House.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library (*Washington Post*, March 6, 1917)

2nd Inauguration of Woodrow Wilson

33rd Inaugural

Sunday, March 4 and Monday, March 5, 1917

Event: On several occasions when March 4 fell on a Sunday the country technically remained without a president for a day. It was decided that the traditional practice was unadvisable given the difficult wartime conditions in Europe so a small ceremony was held on the 4th with the public ceremony held on the 5th. Because of world political conditions large security measures were taken for the inaugural festivities. Secret Service officers surrounded the President's carriage, armed guards were on rooftops and machine guns were on the Capitol grounds. The level of security at Wilson's inauguration had not been seen since Lincoln's second inaugural. [*New York Times*, March 5, 1917]

Location: On March 4 the swearing in was held in the President's Room at the Capitol. An outdoor platform on the East Portico of the Capitol was used on March 5th. 35,000 spectators attended the public ceremony. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 161]

Parade/Procession: 19,000 people participated in the parade — about half the number of participants as in Wilson's previous inaugural. War in Europe put a damper on the celebratory atmosphere of the parade. For the first time women participated in the procession, perhaps due to the influence of Mrs. Wesley Martin Stoner, the first female member of the inaugural committee. Over 100 women from Southern and Western states that had granted women the right to vote carried a large banner marked "We did it — the West and the South." [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 144; *Washington Post*, February 2, 1921] Mrs. Stoner also rode in the parade and was escorted by five women on horseback. Other parade participants included the traditional military and civic units. About 200 veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic marched carrying a banner "Ready for Duty" as did tanned soldiers who had recently been stationed on the Mexican-American border. [*New York Times*, March 5, 1917]

Reviewing Stand: The reviewing stand was glass-enclosed and heated and the predominate color scheme was white with gold or greenery. The surrounding area was closed to motor traffic before and after the inauguration so that pedestrians could enjoy the area. The Court of Honor was an elaborate setting that included columns supporting urns of greenery and columnar archways supporting large American flags. Large columnar, four-way arches supporting graduated lighting fixtures framed the entrance to the court.

White House Events: A luncheon was held at the White House for invited guests in the State Dining Room but President and Mrs. Wilson reviewed the parade as the guests ate. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 144]

Street Decorations: The inaugural committee had issued guidelines for the decoration of the surrounding area and asked that the flag only be used on a flag pole, not hung from windows or used as bunting. This directive was largely ignored.

Weather: Sunny with a cold wind.



This triumphal arch was constructed for a victory parade to celebrate the end of World War I. Although the war ended in 1918 the parade was not held until September 1919 when Pershing's First Division returned to the United States. The arch stood at Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street.

Bradley Collection, Columbia Historical Society

World War I Victory Parade

Wednesday, September 17, 1919

- Event:** General John J. Pershing led the First Division of the U.S. Army down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol past the White House to 19th Street to celebrate the victory of the Allied powers in World War I.
- Background:** Although the war ended in 1918 the First Division had remained in France until early September 1919 while final arrangements concerning the Treaty of Versailles were negotiated. Before its arrival in Washington the First Division had participated in equally grand victory parades in New York, where a victory arch was constructed, and in Philadelphia. [*Capital Losses*, p. 448]
- Parade:** Over 400,000 spectators were present to see General John "Blackjack" Pershing escorting his troops down Pennsylvania Avenue on his horse Jeff, past the Court of Honor from where Vice President Marshall reviewed the troops. In San Francisco campaigning for the United States' entry into the League of Nations, President Wilson was not present. The parade was five miles long, lasted four hours and consisted of 15 bands and 25,000 troops. [*Capital Losses*, p. 447] Washington florists had donated 100,000 flowers to cover the line of march and the troops paraded with flowers at their feet. In addition to soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) others who had contributed to the war effort also participated. Men and women of the Jewish Welfare Board marched as well as field nurses. Four women who traveled with the AEF into hostile territory, two of whom had received the French Croix de Guerre, were especially recognized for their work. The gun that fired the first American shot in the war on October 23, 1917 also figured in the parade. The parade was accompanied in the air with military planes. [*Washington Post*, Sept. 18, 1919]
- Victory Arch:** The victory arch was a white wooden construction built to resemble the French Arc de Triomphe in Paris that had been erected to commemorate Napoleon's victories. The arch was decorated with American and Allied flags and spanned the northwest corner of Pennsylvania Avenue at 15th Street. It was removed a few weeks after the celebration.
- Other Details:** On the evening of the 17th a dance was held for the veterans on the East Plaza of the Capitol.



President Warren G. Harding's inauguration in 1921 was the first in which an automobile was used to transport the president and president-elect. The Pierce-Arrow touring car, with President Woodrow Wilson and President-elect Harding, was escorted only by a small escort of cavalry, which had to gallop in order to keep ahead of the following cars:

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

Inauguration of Warren G. Harding

34th Inaugural
Friday, March 4, 1921

- Event:** President Wilson had suffered a stroke in September 1919 which left him greatly impaired. His visible illness cast a shadow on President-elect Harding's inaugural festivities. The overall tone of the ceremony and parade was subdued. Perhaps out of respect for Wilson, President-elect Harding had let it be known that his inauguration was to be a very simple ceremony. There was no parade or ball. Another possible explanation for the lack of pomp was that a few senators had complained to Harding about the extravagance surrounding presidential inaugurals. [*Shadow of Blooming Grove*, p. 2] After the oath of office Harding used a public address system to give his inaugural address, the first time one had been used in a presidential inaugural.
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol. Only 10,000 people came to the Capitol to witness the ceremony. Keeping with Harding's wishes for a simple ceremony the usual inaugural platform was not erected; in its place was a smaller stand which could accommodate about 30 people. Two additional stands were erected for members of Congress. [*Pittsburgh Post*, January 18, 1921]
- Parade/Procession:** An automobile, a Pierce-Arrow touring car, was used in the pre-inaugural procession for the first time in history. The photographers on hand at the White House had been ordered not to photograph President Wilson limping, using his cane, or requiring the help of others to walk or enter the car. Pictures were taken only after he was seated. The President's car was escorted only by a small troop of cavalry, which had to gallop to keep ahead of the cars following behind. Few spectators lined the route to the Capitol.
- White House Events:** Around 5 pm that day President Harding noticed a large crowd just outside the fence surrounding the White House grounds. Since April 6, 1917, the day the United States entered World War I, no tourists had been allowed to visit the house or grounds. Harding ordered the gates to be opened and the 500 or so curiosity-seekers crossed the grounds, came up to the ground floor windows and peered in. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 164] Harding decreed that from then on, with a written request, visitors would be allowed in the White House. [*National Magazine*, April 21, 1921]
- Weather:** Clear and chilly.



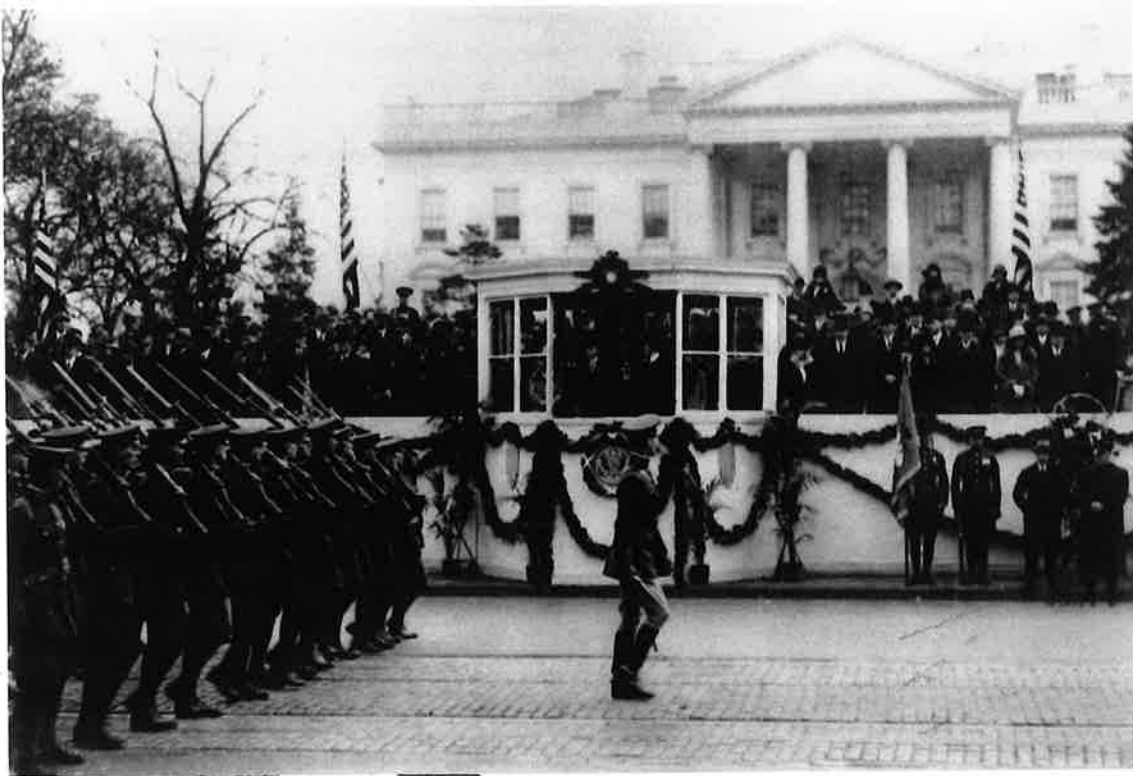
President Warren G. Harding died of a cardiac disorder on August 2, 1923 while in California. His body was transported to Washington by a special train. On arrival the body was taken to the White House and transported to the Capitol the following day. After a state funeral the body was taken to Union Station and then to Ohio for burial. This image probably represents the procession from the White House to the Capitol.

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

Swearing In of Calvin Coolidge / Funeral of Warren G. Harding

Thursday, August 2 - Wednesday, August 8, 1923

- Event:** Vice President Coolidge learned of President Harding's death from a cardiac disorder while staying at his father's home in Vermont. Harding, who had first taken ill three days previous in San Francisco, appeared to respond to medical treatment but on the evening of August 2 died suddenly while his wife read to him.
- Location:** Vice President Coolidge received the news by telegram around midnight in Plymouth, Vermont. Although Coolidge's father was a notary public and able to read the oath no one present could remember the words. The oath was telegraphed to the village of White River from Washington, then dictated by telephone to a messenger who delivered it to Plymouth, eight miles away. Coolidge's father gave the oath. This was the first and only time a father has administered the oath of office to his son. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 149; "Lamplight Inaugural"] The new President departed for Washington in the morning.
- Procession:** It took four days for President Harding's body to cross the country by special funeral train. All along the route large crowds—40, 000 waited in Omaha in the middle of the night—lined the tracks to pay their respects. In Ohio, the President's home state, Mrs. Harding had the train stop for mourners along the route.
- White House Events:** Arriving at Union Station on the 7th the casket was immediately brought to the East Room of the White House. No service was held; Mrs. Harding remained with President Harding's body for most of the night. [*Shadow of Blooming Grove*, p. 596-7]
- Capitol Events:** The following morning a procession which included the diplomatic corps, the Supreme Court justices, other dignitaries, Marines and the 3rd Cavalry escorted the casket to the Capitol. The body lay in state in the Rotunda on the same catafalque as that used for Presidents Garfield and McKinley for the remainder of the day. A brief service was held and the public was invited to pay their respects. In the late afternoon the body was removed to Union Station where it was transported by special train to Ohio for burial. [*Shadow of Blooming Grove*, p. 592-9]



President Calvin Coolidge's 1925 reviewing stand was mocked by the Washington press for its small size. The enclosed part of the stand left only enough room for a few guests to stand. Chairs were not necessary however, Coolidge's parade only lasted an hour.

Office of the Curator, The White House

Inauguration of Calvin Coolidge

35th Inaugural
Wednesday, March 4, 1925

- Event:** The inaugural festivities of 1925 reflected President Coolidge's personality. Coolidge, a New Englander, lived an uncomplicated, simple existence. Neither the President nor the First Lady entertained or even went out a great deal. The inaugural festivities, in keeping with the temperament of the President, were restrained and subdued. In addition, the Coolidges were mourning their 16 year old son, Calvin, Jr., who had died the previous summer. Two notable firsts took place at Calvin Coolidge's inauguration. It was the first time a former President delivered the oath of office to an incoming President. Former President Taft had become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court since his term in office and it was also the first time that Americans were able to listen to the inaugural ceremony by radio. The oath and address were carried by twenty stations which reached an audience of 20 million listeners. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 153]
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- Parade/Procession:** The pre-inaugural procession to the White House was a simple one composed of only automobiles and three service units. After the ceremony only a brief hour long parade was held. The *Washington Post* [March 5, 1925] wrote that the parade "breathed of rigid New England simplicity." Civic units had been prohibited from participating and state governments were limited to 100 member delegations. Because of this the military seemed to dominate the event. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 170]
- Reviewing Stand:** The presidential stand was a small, octagonal structure painted white and decorated with greenery. The stand was enclosed on all sides except for the front window looking directly onto Pennsylvania Avenue from which the President reviewed the parade. Coolidge tipped his hat as parade participants passed the reviewing stand.
- Street Decorations:** Although few buildings bore bunting or crepe all of those along Pennsylvania Avenue displayed the flag.
- Weather:** Sunny and warm.
- Other Details:** There was no inaugural ball.



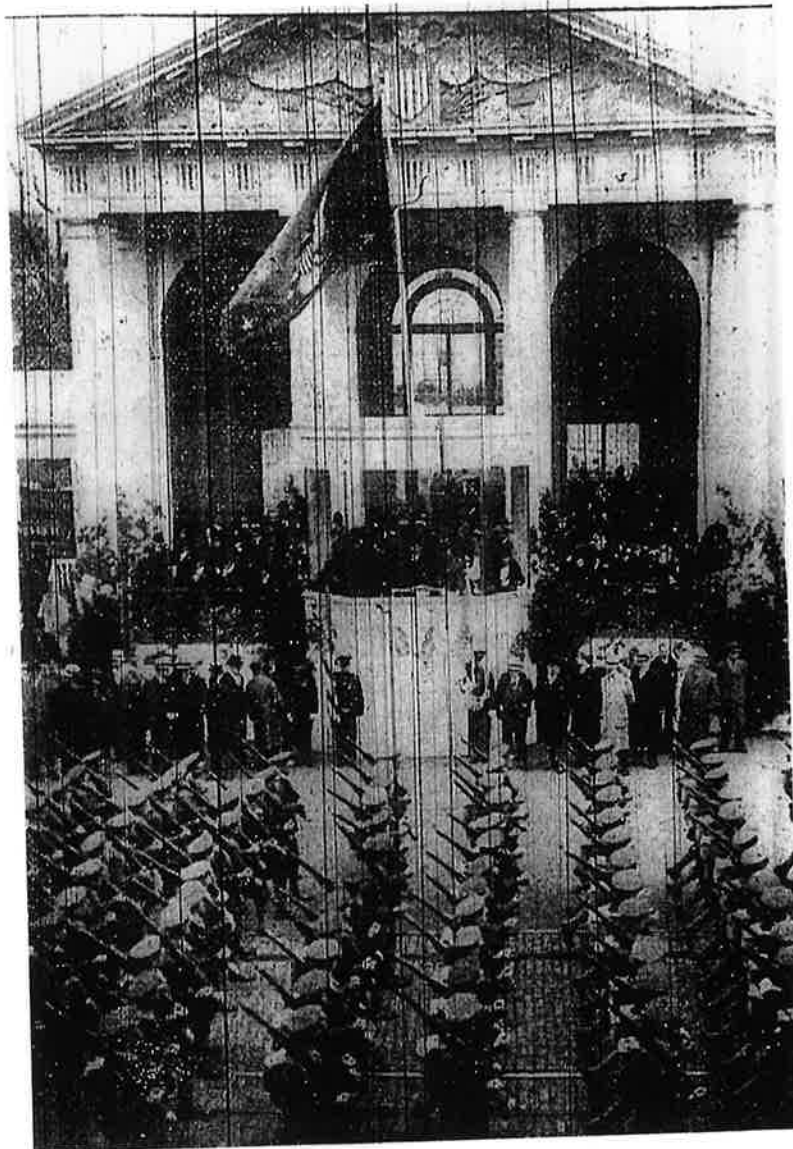
The striped roof and awnings on Herbert Hoover's 1929 reviewing stand gave the stand a circus-like, festive feeling. Over 20,000 participants marched in the inaugural parade, which featured Native Americans, an Australian delegation and the United Confederate Veterans.

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

Inauguration of Herbert Hoover

36th Inaugural
Monday, March 4, 1929

- Event:** Because March 4, 1929 fell on a Monday Washington was overwhelmed with visitors who made a weekend trip to the city for the inaugural. Over 200,000 tourists had come to see Hoover inaugurated. In spite of the poor weather the atmosphere was festive. 50,000 spectators withstood the pouring rain to witness the ceremony. President Hoover's inauguration was the first to be filmed for broadcast; a newsreel was made of the ceremony that was broadcast to locations as far away as Richard Byrd's Antarctic camp. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 155]
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- Parade/Procession:** During the inauguration a steady downpour had begun; the Hoovers were forced to return to the White House in the same car by which they arrived: an open car. They arrived at the White House drenched and shivering. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 157] In spite of the rain, the parade, which began in the late afternoon, lasted two hours and featured 20,000 participants including military units, Native Americans, marching bands, and a group of Australian cadets to commemorate the time President Hoover spent there while working as a mining engineer. The United Confederate Veterans also marched in an inaugural parade for the first time. [Hoover Scrapbook, RG 42, National Archives] The inaugural parade was accompanied in the air by one dirigible and three military blimps. [*Washington Post*, March 5, 1929]
- Reviewing Stand:** An executive reviewing stand was constructed and placed in front of White House. The striped roof and awnings of the stand gave it a festive, circus-like appearance.
- Weather:** Rain showers throughout the day.



Washington architect Waddy B. Wood designed Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1933 inaugural stand to resemble Old Federal Hall, the building where George Washington took the oath of office in 1789. The large structure, which was floodlighted at night, featured a cupola.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library (*Washington Post*, March 5, 1933)

Inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt

37th Inaugural
Saturday, March 4, 1933

- Event:** When Roosevelt came to office the country was in the midst of the Great Depression. His reassuring inaugural address began with the familiar, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Over 100,000 people crowded the grounds of the Capitol to welcome the man many thought of as an economic savior.
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- White House Events:** Before the parade the Roosevelts hosted a luncheon for 1000 guests at the White House.
- Parade/Procession:** For the first time, the inaugural parade originated on Constitution Avenue near the Capitol before proceeding down the traditional Pennsylvania Avenue route. It lasted four hours and counted 25,000 participants including 36 bands and 18 drum-and-bugle corps. General Douglas MacArthur was grand marshal of the parade. 300 members of the Electoral College marched and a float of the frigate *Constitution*, a familiar theme in inaugural parades of the mid 19th century, made an appearance. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 183] 500,000 spectators were on hand for the parade which lasted three hours and 40 minutes.
- Reviewing Stand:** The executive reviewing stand was designed by Waddy B. Wood, a prominent Washington architect who designed the 1913 reviewing stand for Wilson's first inaugural. The stand featured a small presidential booth placed in front of a structure based on L'Enfant's design for Old Federal Hall in New York where Washington took the oath of office in 1789. The structure, with columns, pediment and cupola, cost \$100,000 to build. Two statues were used to decorate the Court of Honor, across the street from the executive reviewing stand. The statue of Washington was a replica of Ward's statue that stood near Wall Street in New York. The statue of Jefferson was a replica of Frazier's statue that stood near in Jefferson City, Missouri. [*Washington Post*, March 4, 1933; "Federal Design of the Court of Honor..."]
- Weather:** Upper 30s and windy.



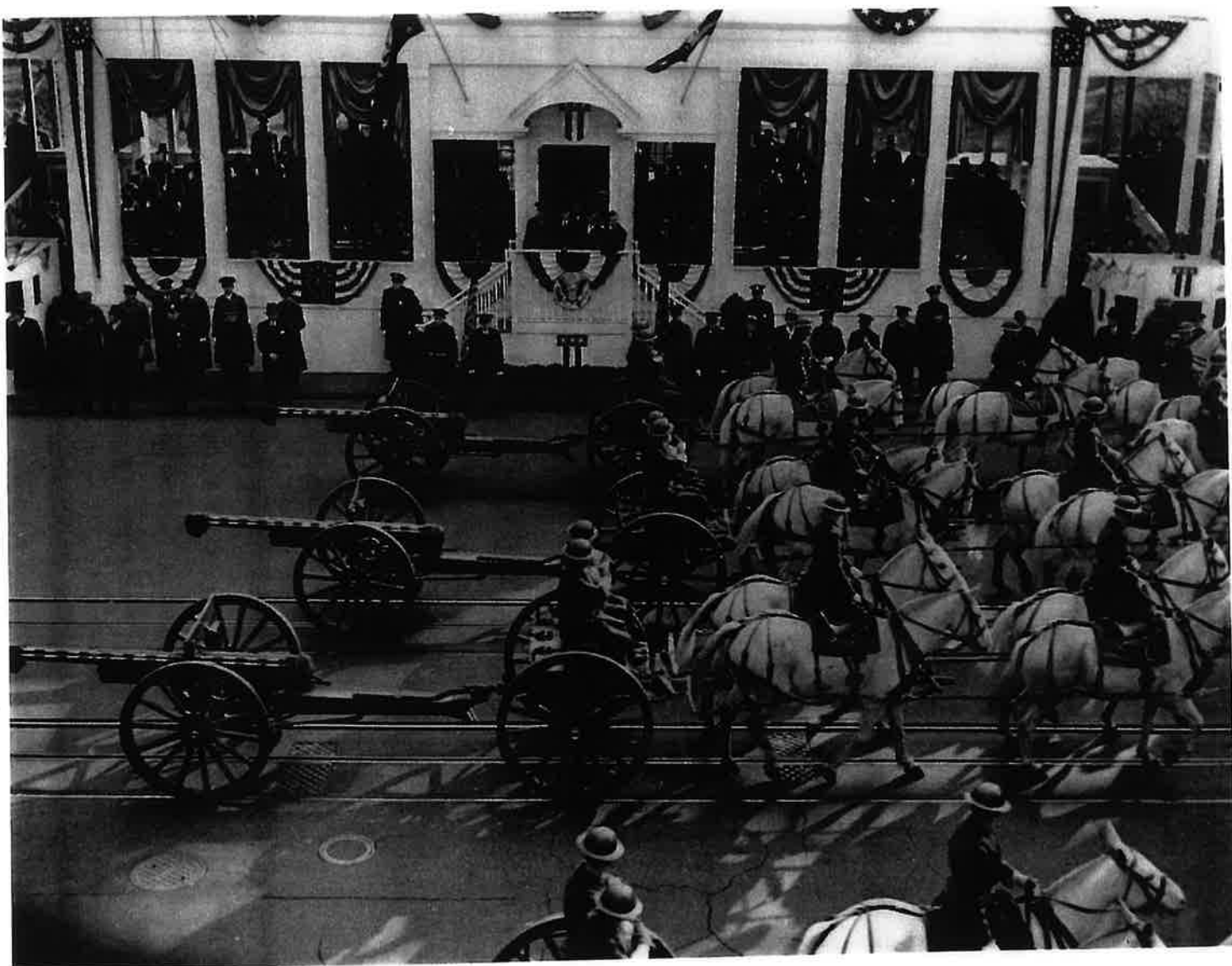
For Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1937 inaugural Waddy B. Wood designed the reviewing stand to resemble Andrew Jackson's home, the Hermitage, in Nashville. The presidential booth in the center originally featured bulletproof glass but the president ordered it removed. The plaque beneath the booth explains the stand's design.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library

2nd Inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt

38th Inaugural
Wednesday, January 20, 1937

- Event:** Roosevelt's second inauguration was the first to take place after passage of the 20th Amendment on January 23, 1933 which changed the date of the inaugural from March 4 to January 20. This change was effected in order to abbreviate the time a President spent as a "lame duck."
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- White House Events:** Immediately following the ceremony a private lunch was held for 600 at the White House and after the parade 3000 guests were received for tea. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 184]
- Parade/Procession:** Only a small escort of motorcycle police and small tanks was used in the pre-inaugural procession. For the return to the White House the President requested, in spite of the weather, an open car to greet the supporters lining the parade route. The official parade took place after a White House luncheon and lasted only 90 minutes. The President had expressed his desire for a simple inaugural therefore no ball was held and the parade was restricted to units of the armed forces and state militias. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 184-6]
- Reviewing Stand:** The executive stand was again designed by Washington architect Waddy B. Wood. The design resembled Andrew Jackson's home in Nashville, the Hermitage. The neoclassic stand featured six large columns supporting a roof which enclosed part of the larger grandstand. The presidential booth jutted out from between the center columns. Originally the booth was enclosed in bullet-proof glass but President Roosevelt ordered its removal. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 162] During the parade an inch of rain accumulated on the floor of the structure and seats became too wet to be sat upon. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 184]
- Weather:** Wet and rainy. The parade was almost canceled but Roosevelt, on seeing supporters brave the elements, declared, "If they can take it, so can I." [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 184] Temperatures were in the thirties. [National Weather Service, *Washington Post*, January 18, 1985]



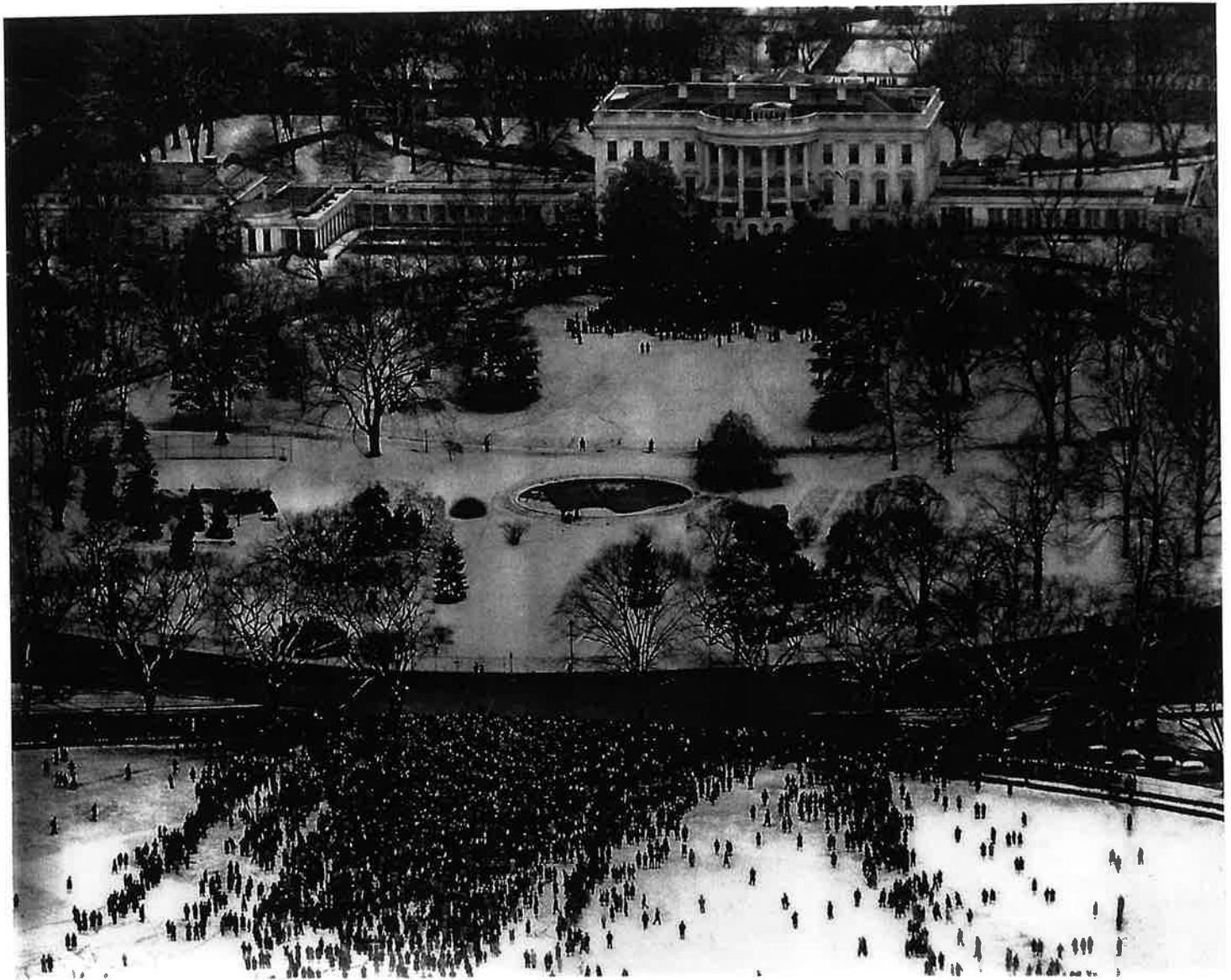
President Franklin D. Roosevelt's unprecedented third inauguration in 1941 was festive in spite of the political climate in Europe. The inaugural parade was restricted to military units and military aircraft made passes over the parade.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library

3rd Inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt

39th Inaugural
Monday, January 20, 1941

- Event:** President Roosevelt's third inauguration was unprecedented in American history. Roosevelt's request for a simple ceremony went largely unheard although the traditional ball was cancelled. The inauguration was festive and well-attended. Among the guests were the children of the royal family of Norway who had been sent, for their safety, to live in the United States.
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol. 150,000 spectators witnessed the ceremony.
- Parade/Procession:** The parade was again restricted to military units. During the 90 minute parade 235 military aircraft made repeated passes over the procession. Over 400,000 people watched the parade march down Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Reviewing Stand:** The reviewing stand was a relatively small one in comparison with past inaugurals. Rather than a structure with a booth in front, as previous stands had been designed, the stand resembled a large grandstand with a center platform, just large enough for four or five people to stand across. The Court of Freedom was erected along both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue near Lafayette Park. [*Washington Star*, January 20, 1941]
- White House Events:** Once again the President and First Lady hosted a large luncheon before the parade (1000 guests) and a tea (2000 guests) afterwards. The President however did not attend these events.
- Weather:** Bright, cold and windy; temperatures in the low thirties.



The 1945 inauguration took place while America was at war. Because of security concerns and Franklin D. Roosevelt's failing health, the ceremony was held on the South Portico of the White House. In addition to the 5,000 guests, 3,000 people gathered outside the gates.

Still Pictures Division, National Archives and Records Administration

4th Inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt

40th Inaugural
Saturday, January 20, 1945

- Event:** Roosevelt's fourth inaugural took place while the United States was fighting World War II. The unprecedented fourth inaugural therefore was feted in an atmosphere of solemnity. The only request the President made was that his 13 grandchildren attend the ceremony. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 192] Five thousand guests were invited to the White House for the ceremony and about 3000 people gathered outside the gates.
- Location:** South Portico, White House. The inaugural was held at the White House for several reasons. A small ceremony at the President's residence was more in keeping with Roosevelt's wish for a simple inaugural; in addition, it was easier to maintain the level of security necessary during wartime. Perhaps the most important reason was the President's failing health and his probable inability to endure a day long event under the constant gaze of the public. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 192] President Roosevelt's ill health was apparent to those who attended the ceremony.
- White House Events:** As in previous years the Roosevelts hosted a luncheon after the ceremony and a tea later in the day for official guests. The menu for the luncheon was the subject of disagreement between the President, who wanted chicken à la king, and the White House housekeeper, Mrs. Nesbitt, who insisted that it was not possible to keep food for 2,000 guests warm. Mrs. Nesbitt won the argument and chicken salad was served to the guests. [*No Ordinary Time*, p. 572]
- Parade/Procession:** There was no parade or inaugural ball.
- Weather:** Cold and wet with snow on the ground. Temperatures were in the low thirties. [National Weather Service, *Washington Post*, January 18, 1985]



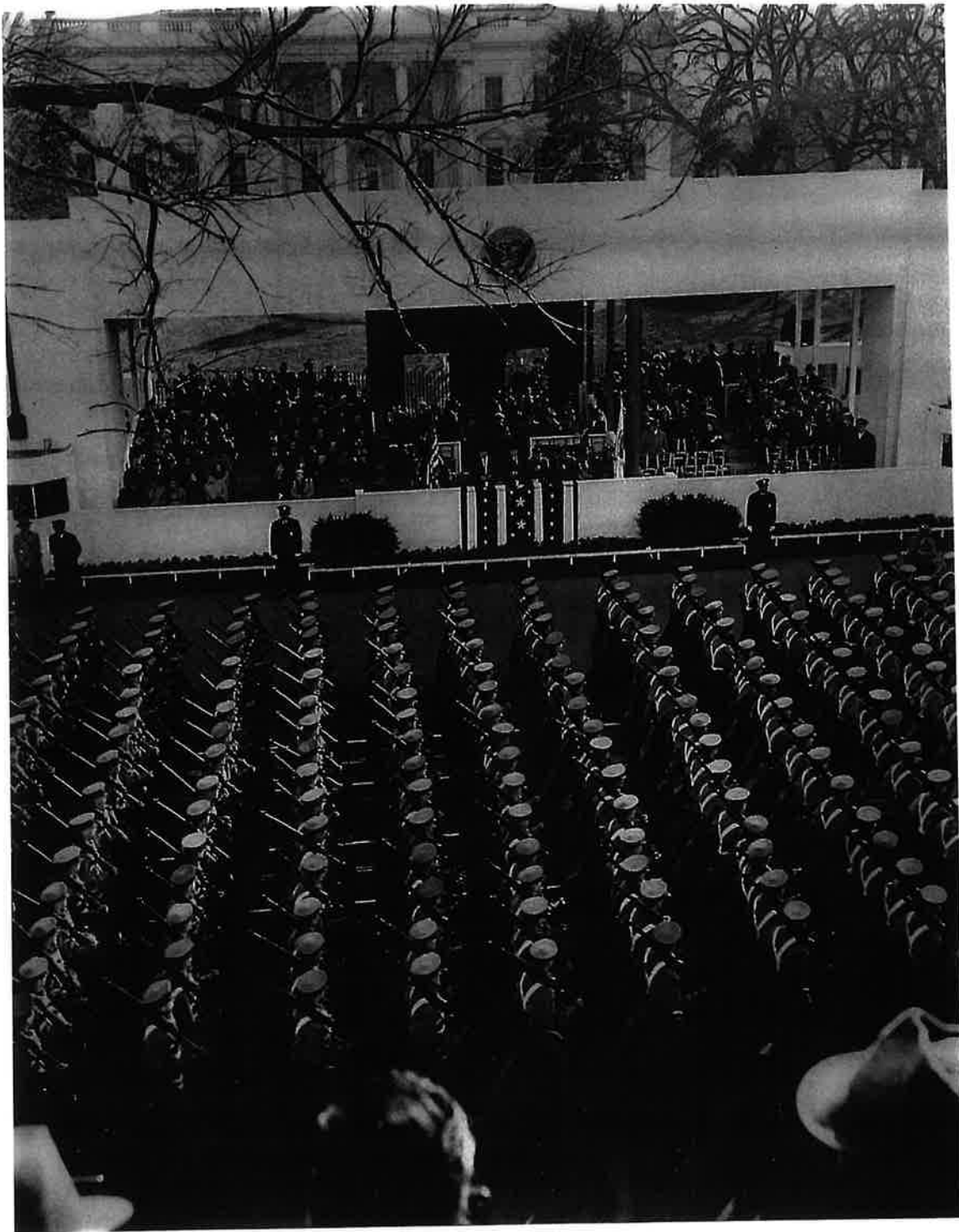
On April 13, 1945 a crowd gathered outside the White House to see the body of President Franklin D. Roosevelt arrive from Warm Springs, Georgia, where he died. Unable to see, people in the crowd used mirrors and parade periscopes to view the procession.

Still Pictures Division, National Archives and Records Administration

Swearing In of Harry S. Truman / Funeral of Franklin D. Roosevelt

Thursday, April 12 - Saturday, April 14, 1945

- Event:** President Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Georgia, where he had gone to rest. Vice President Truman received the news shortly thereafter and was brought to the White House. The Chief Justice administered the oath of office in the presence of the President Roosevelt's cabinet. On learning of the four-term President's death crowds spontaneously gathered in Lafayette Park.
- Location:** Cabinet Room, White House.
- Funeral Procession:** Eleanor Roosevelt traveled to Warm Springs in order to accompany the President's body back to Washington by train the following day. The casket was placed in a raised support so that mourners would be able to see the coffin through the train windows as it passed by. The travel route was lined with thousands of people and, as night fell, all of the train's lights, except for those in the car carrying the casket, were dimmed so that the coffin was clearly visible. The train arrived at Union Station where thousands of mourners waited. A funeral procession that included two bands, members of Congress and President Truman was formed. It traveled down Constitution Avenue to 15th Street to Pennsylvania Avenue.
- White House Events:** On arrival at the White House the casket was placed in the East Room. At 4 pm on the 14th a simple memorial service was held before the body was taken to Hyde Park, New York that evening. The burial took place at Roosevelt's family home on April 15th.



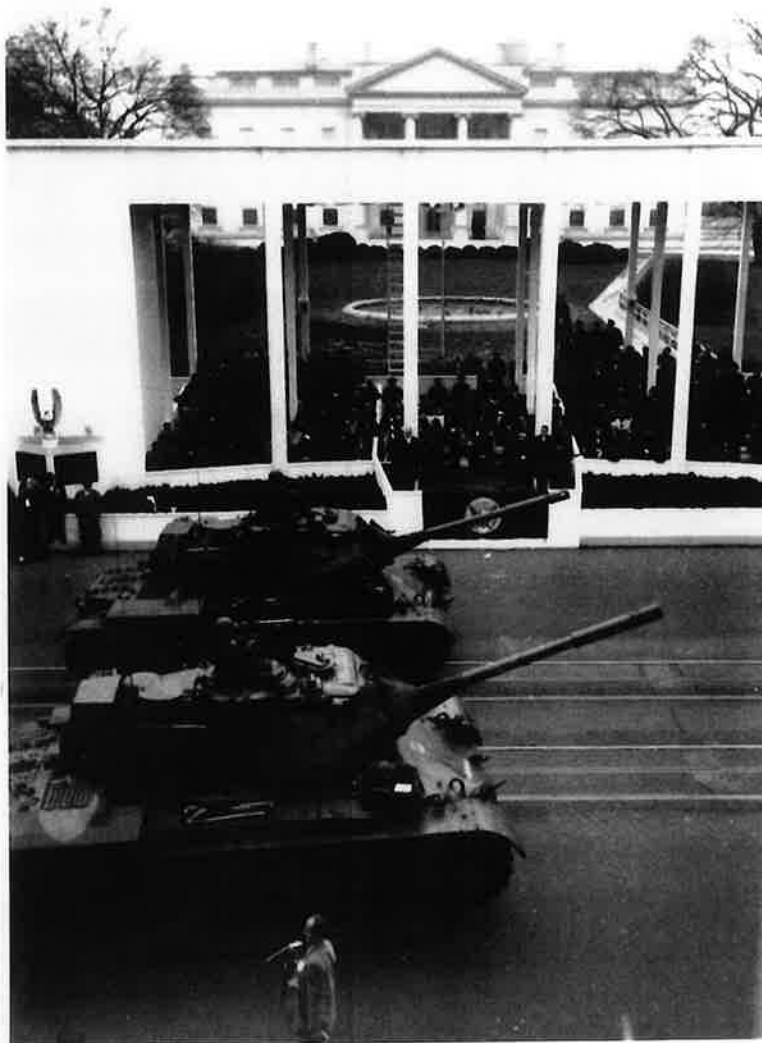
President Harry S. Truman led his own inaugural parade in 1949. After a luncheon at the Capitol, the participants marched to the reviewing stand from where the president watched the almost eight mile long procession.

Still Pictures Division, National Archives and Records Administration

Inauguration of Harry S. Truman

41st Inaugural
Thursday, January 20, 1949

- Event:** This inaugural, not tinged by war or illness, was a grand celebration in which President Truman delighted. 750,000 visitors came to Washington for the festivities. In addition to the large crowds at the Capitol television audiences also viewed the first live broadcast of a President taking the oath of office. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 201]
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol. 150,000 people were present on the Capitol grounds.
- Parade/Procession:** After the ceremony a luncheon was held at the Capitol therefore the return procession to the White House was the parade. President Truman led his own parade to the executive reviewing stand from where he watched the seven and one half mile procession. Participants in the parade included a motorcycle armada forming the initials H.T., a mule drawn float from the President's Missouri hometown, and a calliope playing "I'm just wild about Harry." Military aircraft made passes over the White House and parade route. Over 1 million spectators lined Pennsylvania Avenue. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 172]
- Reviewing Stand:** The design for the executive reviewing stand was selected by an esquisse competition sponsored by the American Institute of Architects. [Letter from George Pettengill, Librarian, AIA to Richard Butterfield, Competition Chair, AIA, September 30, 1960, AIA] The winning design was submitted by Branch D. Elam. [Memo to Presidential Grandstand Committee from Gordon Young, Chair, December 14, 1948, NPS, Office of White House Liaison; Inauguration Program, 1949, National Museum of American History]
- White House Events:** During this inauguration the White House was undergoing renovations so the Trumans stayed at Blair House.
- Other Details:** So many groups had inquired about meeting the President that a reception was held at the National Gallery that was attended by 10,000 people.
- Weather:** Cold and crisp. Temperatures were in the low thirties. [National Weather Service, *Washington Post*, January 18, 1985]



President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1953 reviewing stand was designed by Robert Weppner, an architect and faculty member at Catholic University. The design was chosen in a competition sponsored by the American Institute of Architects.

Still Pictures Division, National Archives and Records Administration

Inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower

42nd Inaugural
Tuesday, January 20, 1953

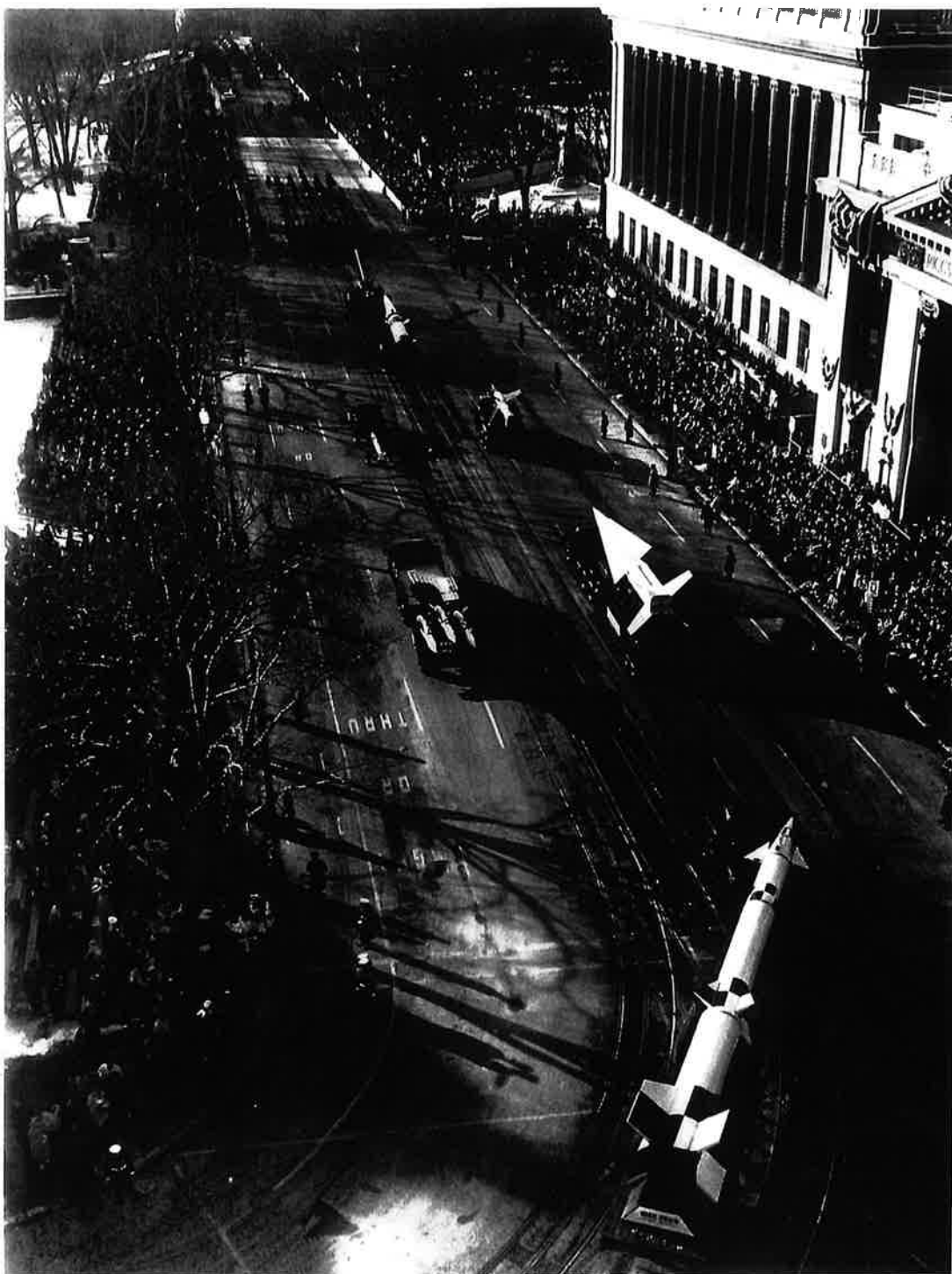
Event: Eisenhower took office as the first Republican President in 24 years; consequently the inaugural celebrations were elaborate. The budget for the festivities topped \$1 million. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 204]

Location: Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol. The ceremony took place in front of 140,000 spectators.

Parade/Procession: Truman and Eisenhower did not have a good relationship; Truman refused to pick up the President-elect at his hotel on the morning of the inauguration as was customary. The two men met at the White House and rode together, almost without speaking, to the Capitol. President Eisenhower led his own inaugural parade down Pennsylvania Avenue. About 750,000 spectators watched the five hour parade which consisted of 62 bands and 26,000 participants, about 18,000 of whom were military. The theme of the parade was "The Crusade in America." [Inauguration Program, 1953, National Museum of American History] There were 43 floats in the parade and 10 of them represented scenes from President Eisenhower's life. Parade participants included Korean War veterans, the 82nd Airborne Division, political clubs, tanks and heavy artillery. The number of American flags in the inaugural parade was limited to one flag per ten parade divisions because the inaugural organizing committee felt that in previous years the large number of flags, which required seated viewers in the executive stand to stand and salute, was too distracting. [*Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 3, 9, 21, 1953]

Reviewing Stand: The President clearly enjoyed his parade. From the reviewing stand he leaned down to shake hands with participants and allowed a parade cowboy to playfully lasso him. The design for the executive reviewing stand was selected by an esquisse competition sponsored by the American Institute of Architects. The winning design was submitted by Robert Weppner, architect and faculty member of Catholic University. Weppner's winning design was all the more remarkable because he neglected to bring proper drawing tools to the competition and sketched out his design with a fountain pen. Weppner received a \$100 prize. [Letter from George Pettengill, Librarian, AIA to Richard Butterfield, Competition Chair, AIA, September 30, 1960, AIA; "Inaugural Reviewing Stand"] The area around the stand, usually known as the Court of Honor, was termed the "Court of the Crusade" by inauguration organizers and Pennsylvania Avenue was temporarily renamed the "Avenue of the Crusaders." [Inauguration Program, 1953, National Museum of American History]

Weather: Mild and sunny; temperatures in the mid-fifties.



President Dwight D. Eisenhower liked the reviewing stand from the 1953 inaugural so much that he rejected the design chosen by members of a jury from the American Institute of Architects and had the stand reconstructed for his 1957 inaugural. The parade took place during the Cold War and consequently showcased America's military strength.

Washington Collection, Martin Luther King Library

2nd Inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower

43rd Inaugural

Sunday, January 20 and Monday, January 21, 1957

- Event:** President Eisenhower's second inauguration fell on a Sunday. Although waiting until Monday to take the oath of office would not have posed a problem the cold war atmosphere of the times predominated and Eisenhower elected to take the oath twice; in a small private ceremony and in public the following day.
- Location:** On January 20 the ceremony was held in the East Room of the White House in front of 80 guests, mostly family members of the President and Vice President. On the 21st the ceremony was held on the outdoor platform on the East Portico of the U. S. Capitol. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 209]
- Parade/Procession:** Because of the extreme length of the parade four years previous each state was only allowed to contribute one float, one band and one military unit thereby limiting the parade to two hours. 200,000 spectators lined the streets to see the parade pass. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 179] One float was over 400 feet in length and bore a banner that read, "Liberty and Strength through Consent of the Governed."
- Reviewing Stand:** An esquisse competition was held by the American Institute of Architects to select a design for the inaugural reviewing stand. A design was chosen but President Eisenhower rejected the winning entry in favor of the same stand used in his first inauguration. [Letter from George Pettengill, Librarian, AIA to Richard Butterfield, Competition Chair, AIA, September 30, 1960, AIA] The area around the stand, usually known as the Court of Honor, was termed the "Court of the Spirit of Freedom" by inauguration organizers. [Memo, December 19, 1956, RG 274, National Archives]
- Weather:** Temperatures were in the mid forties-low fifties. [National Weather Service, *Washington Post*, January 18, 1985]



President John F. Kennedy's 1961 reviewing stand was modern in appearance. The design, by architect Robert Brackett, was selected by members of a jury from the American Institute of Architects. The seal on the roof was later sold to the Occidental Grill, a Washington restaurant, where it decorated the ceiling for many years.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library

Inauguration of John F. Kennedy

44th Inaugural
Friday, January 20, 1961

- Event:** Participating in the inaugural ceremony were Marian Anderson who sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and Robert Frost who recited a poem. The theme of the inaugural was "World Peace."
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol. About 20,000 spectators braved the cold and witnessed President Kennedy take the oath of office.
- Parade/Procession:** The cold temperature put somewhat of a damper on the celebration; many of the participants put on overcoats thus dulling the overall effect of the parade. 32,000 participants including 86 bands marched in the parade. One float from Maine was pulled by a team of 20 huskies. The three hour parade concluded with a float carrying a replica of President's PT boat that carried the surviving members of his crew. [*Inaugural Cavalcade*, p. 185; *Life Inaugural Spectacular*, National Museum of American History]
- Reviewing stand:** An esquisse competition was held by the American Institute of Architects to select a design for the executive reviewing stand. The competition was limited to members of the Washington chapter of the AIA. The winning design featured an inclined roof supported by thin rectangular columns. The central section and the ceiling were decorated with the presidential seal. Designs submitted in the competition were required to be built for less than \$40,000 and take less than 30 days to construct. The winner, architect Robert Brackett, received \$100 in prize money. [Program of Competition for the Presidential Reviewing Stand, AIA; *Washington Star*, October 5, 1960] The replica of the presidential seal was purchased by Occidental Grill, a Washington restaurant, and adorned its ceiling for many years. [*Evening Star*, March 18, 1964] The President reviewed the entirety of the parade from the executive reviewing stand in front of the White House.
- Weather:** The night before the inauguration Washington got eight inches of snow. 3000 servicemen with 700 trucks, snowplows and sanders worked all night to clear the route between the White House and the Capitol. On inauguration day the sky was clear but the temperature was only 22 degrees.



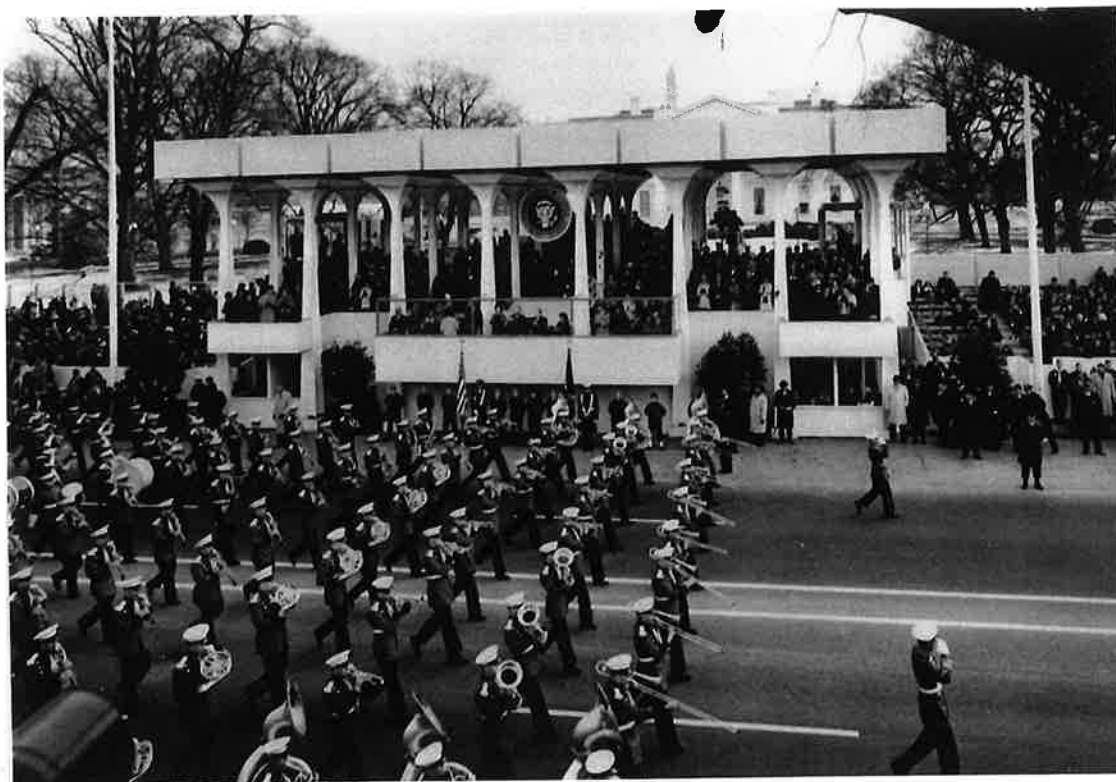
After the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963 a crowd gathered in Lafayette Park and outside the White House gates. Small groups would remain in the area until the president's funeral on November 25th.

Still Pictures Division, National Archives and Records Administration

Swearing In of Lyndon Baines Johnson / Funeral of John F. Kennedy

Friday, November 22 - Monday, November 25, 1963

- Event:** President Johnson took the oath of office after the assassination of President Kennedy. The oath was administered by Sarah Hughes, a federal judge, and the first woman to swear in a President.
- Location:** The ceremony took place in the cabin of Air Force One as it waited on the ground at Love Field, just outside Dallas, to bring the body of President Kennedy back to Washington. About 30 people witnessed the ceremony. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 223]
- White House Events:** After it was learned the President died a small crowd gathered outside the White House gates. People would remain outside the White House and in Lafayette Park until President Kennedy's body was taken to the Capitol on the 24th. To prepare the White House for mourning and plan the funeral Mrs. Kennedy and others involved in the funeral arrangements consulted books on Lincoln's funeral. [*The Torch is Passed*, p. 31] After the autopsy and embalming were performed at Bethesda Naval Hospital the body was brought to the White House where it was placed in the East Room. The White House had been suitably decorated; black crepe was hung at the North Portico door and the chandeliers and marble fireplaces of the East Room were covered in black bunting. [*The Torch is Passed*, p. 36, 68] Dignitaries, ambassadors, politicians and other officials viewed the body while it lay at the White House. President Johnson did not move into the White House until December 7.
- Procession:** On Sunday the 24th a procession brought President Kennedy's body to lie in state at the Capitol on the same catafalque Lincoln lay on. The procession included a military escort and the traditional horse with backwards-facing boots in stirrups. The caisson that brought the body to the Capitol was that used for Franklin Roosevelt's funeral. Along Pennsylvania Avenue flags were at half-staff and doorways were draped in black. [*The Torch is Passed*, p. 79, 81]
- Viewing:** At the Capitol the public paid its respects. The Rotunda was scheduled to receive mourners until 9 pm but the crowd was so great that it remained open throughout the night.
- Burial:** On the morning of the funeral the caisson returned to the White House, from where the funeral procession departed. The President's family, world leaders from 92 countries and political advisors followed the caisson on foot to St. Matthew's Cathedral, where the funeral mass was held. After the service a three mile long motorcade was formed to travel to Arlington National Cemetery where the President was interred. [*The Torch is Passed*, p. 93, 96]



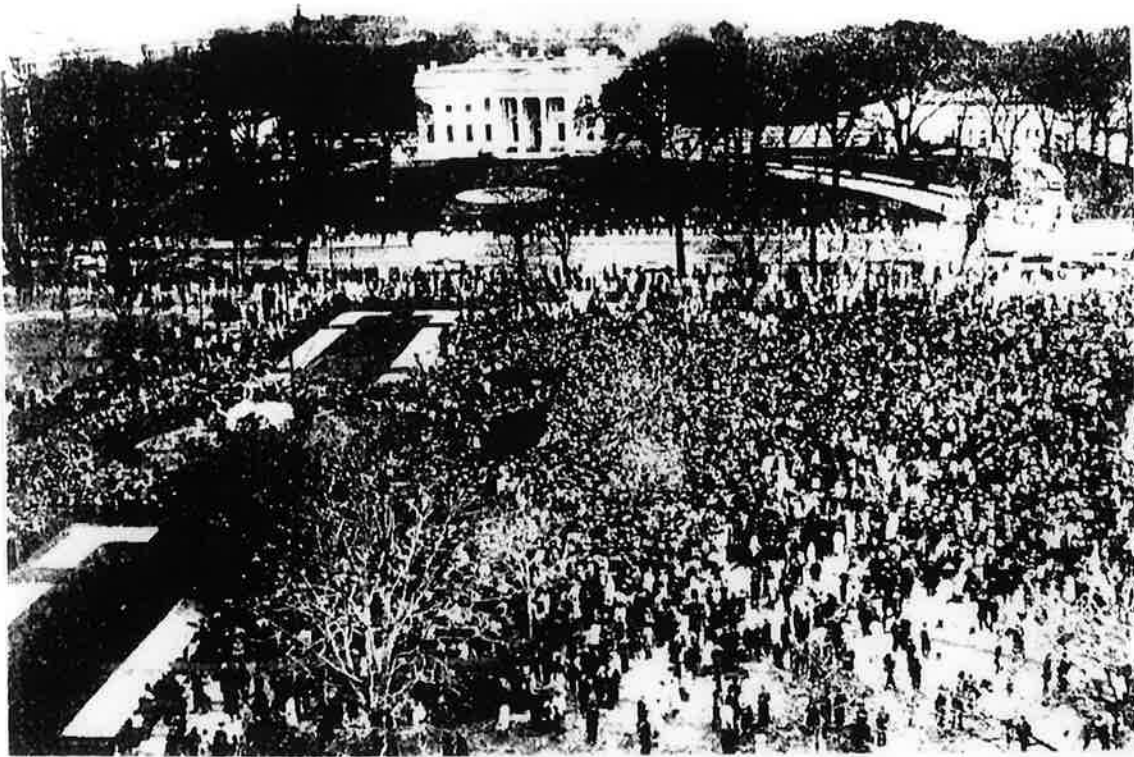
President Lyndon B. Johnson's 1965 inaugural parade lasted over two hours and included 15,000 participants. The president watched the procession from a reviewing stand designed by architect Peter Hasselmann.

Still Pictures Division, National Archives and Records Administration

Inauguration of Lyndon Baines Johnson

45th Inaugural
Wednesday, January 20, 1965

- Event:** President Kennedy's assassination had changed the openness and celebratory atmosphere that had marked previous presidential inaugurations. Added security precautions were taken at all inaugural events. The First Lady took a role in the inaugural ceremony for the first time when Mrs. Johnson held the Bible on which the President swore the oath of office. The theme of this inaugural was "Peace."
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- Parade/Procession:** When President Johnson rode from the Capitol it was in the same limousine in which Kennedy had been shot but the open top had been closed and it had been reinforced with steel and made bulletproof. Five thousand guards were stationed on the parade route and the weapons of military parade participants were checked to ensure that they were not loaded. Even four Native Americans who marched in the parade were required to remove the steel tips from their arrows. Windows overlooking the parade route were ordered shut until the President was safely back at the White House. The parade counted 15,000 participants and lasted two and a half-hours. The armed forces and service academies were limited to only one band and one marching unit each in order to balance the number of military and civilian participants. Each state was permitted a car for the governor, a marching band, a marching unit and a float. Texas was allowed a second float which represented the President's ranch in Johnson City. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 228, 231]
- Reviewing Stand:** Architect Peter Hasselmann's design for the presidential pavilion was chosen from 25 entries in a competition held by the American Institute of Architects in Washington. Hasselmann received \$750 in prize money for his design which featured thin flaring columns and skylights. The design competition required that entries cost less than \$50,000 and take less than 30 days to construct. The presidential pavilion was made bomb proof and bullet proof. [Program of Competition for the Presidential Reviewing Stand, AIA; Clippings, *Evening Star*, September 16, 1964, October 14, 1964; *Washington Post*, October 15, 1964, AIA]
- President Johnson clearly enjoyed the parade and gestured to the participants and public. One of the dignified guests in the reviewing stand was the President's dog who was allowed to watch the parade from a chair. [*Hail to the Chief*, p. 231]
- Weather:** Upper thirties and sunny.



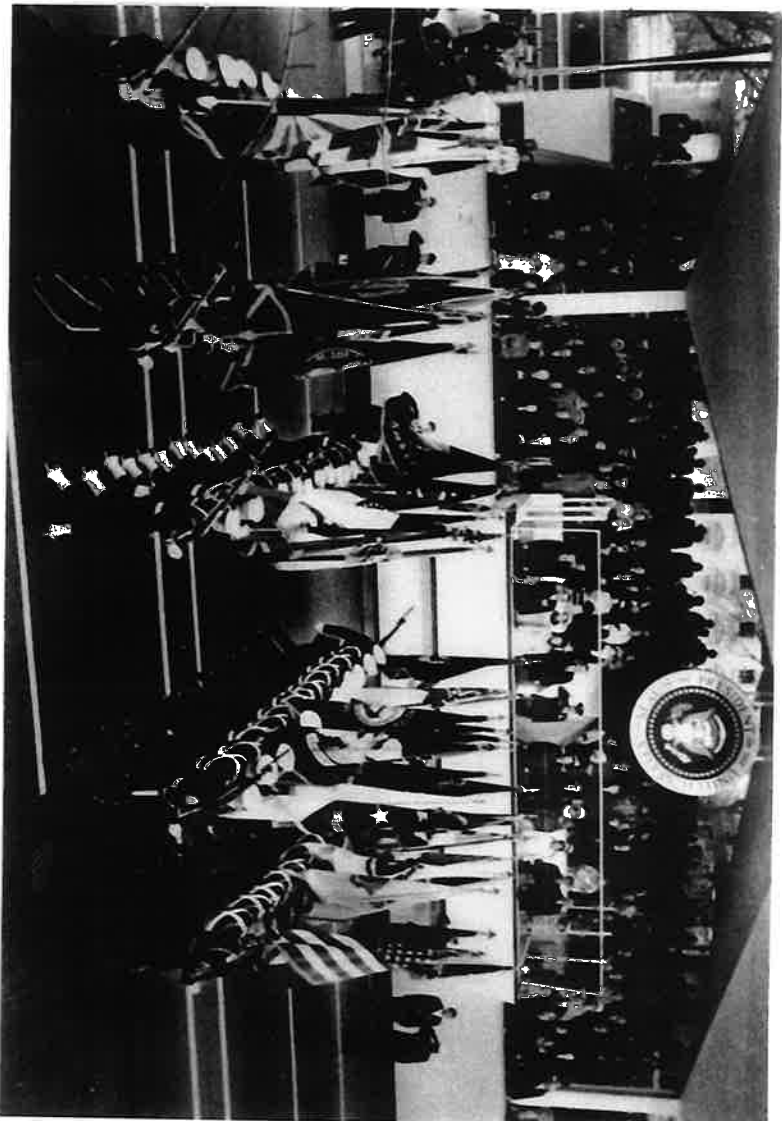
Numerous civil rights protests took place near the White House in the 1960s and 1970s. This demonstration was held in Lafayette Park to protest the deaths of two civil rights activists in Alabama in March 1965.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library (Washington *Evening Star*, March 15, 1965)

Civil Rights Rally, Lafayette Park

Monday, March 15, 1965

- Significance:** Because of its proximity to the White House Lafayette Park has served as a staging ground for protestors of various causes since the early 20th century. In particular many civil rights and anti-war demonstrations were held in the park or outside the White House gates in the 60s and early 70s.
- Event:** About 7000 people participated in a protest against the violence that had taken place in Alabama. Civil rights demonstrator Jimmy Lee Jackson had been shot by a state trooper on February 17 and Rev. James Reeb was beaten by segregationists and died of his injuries a few days earlier. The protestors arrived from three points in the city, one of which was a memorial service to Reeb, and converged on Lafayette Park. One group carried an empty coffin to symbolize the "burial of law, order and justice in Alabama" but police refused to allow the coffin inside the park so the pallbearers joined the demonstrators who had been picketing the White House since earlier in the week. The protestors wore black armbands in memory of Reeb and Jackson; they included federal employees, a group of nuns and students from Howard University. [*Evening Star*, March 15, 1965]
- White House Events:** After the protest disbanded many people joined the group picketing the White House; the picket line extended from West Executive Avenue, across to East Executive Avenue to 15th Street as far south as G Street. After the end of the Lafayette Park demonstration the picket lines numbered about 5,000 protestors. [*Evening Star*, March 15, 1965]



In contrast to earlier parades of the Cold War era, the number of military units participating in Richard M. Nixon's 1969 inaugural parade was limited so that it would not appear too militaristic.

Still Pictures Division, National Archives and Records Administration

Inauguration of Richard M. Nixon

46th Inaugural
Monday, January 20, 1969

- Event:** As with President Johnson's inauguration security was tight; access to all buildings on Pennsylvania Avenue was by permit only and all windows looking onto the parade route were ordered shut. The theme of the inaugural was "Forward Together."
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol.
- Reviewing Stand:** The design for the reviewing stand was selected in a competition held by the American Institute of Architects in Washington. A jury of five members chose William Crandall Suite's entry from 38 submitted. Suite received \$1000 in prize money. The competition required that the chosen design cost less than \$60,000 and take less than 30 days to construct. [Program of Competition for the Presidential Reviewing Stand, AIA; News Release, District of Columbia Public Affairs Office, RG 274, National Archives]
- Parade/Procession:** The parade lasted three hours and included 36 floats and 51 marching bands. The Whittier High School Marching Band from Nixon's high school; a float with a ski jump from Colorado and the Lippizaner stallions participated in the parade. 200,000 spectators lined Pennsylvania Avenue. Only a limited number of military units participated in the parade. Inaugural organizers did not want the parade too appear too militaristic and consequently rejected the applications of many other military units to participate.
- Other Details:** President Johnson rode to the Capitol with President-elect Nixon but after the ceremony left for a luncheon in the Maryland suburbs and then for Texas. He did not attend the parade. President Nixon attended a luncheon in the Capitol. [*Evening Star*, January 20, 1969]
- Numerous protestors were on hand for President Nixon's inaugural to demonstrate against American involvement in Vietnam. On January 19 a "counter-inaugural" parade was staged. About 6,000 activists walked the parade route in the opposite direction. On inauguration day protestors mixed with spectators, shouting slogans and throwing cans and rocks at the presidential limousine when it passed. In Lafayette Park a brawl erupted between police and demonstrators. Similar events were reported elsewhere in the city. [*Washington Post*, January 21, 1969]
- Weather:** Temperatures in the mid-upper thirties. [National Weather Service, *Washington Post*, January 18, 1985]



Three lines of police and Army troops locked arms to cordon off a group of some 400 screaming, rock and bottle throwing anti-war protesters at 12th-st and Pennsylvania-av as the bulletproof bubble top limousine carrying President and Mrs. Nixon sped by.

War protestors also took advantage of Inauguration Day 1969 to press their cause. A "counter-inaugural" parade was staged and limited violence broke out around the city. The National Guard had to restrain protestors along the parade route as Richard M. Nixon's limousine passed.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library (*Washington Daily News*, January 21, 1969)



In celebration of the nation's upcoming bicentennial, a four-man fife and drum corps began and ended the 1973 inaugural parade for Richard M. Nixon.

Still Picture Division, National Archives and Records Administration

2nd Inauguration of Richard M. Nixon

47th Inaugural
Saturday, January 20, 1973

- Event:** The theme for President Nixon's second inaugural was "Spirit of 76" in celebration of the nation's upcoming bicentennial
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol. A luncheon was held in the Capitol before the President returned to the White House to review the parade.
- Parade/Procession:** In keeping with the inaugural theme the parade began and ended with a four-man fife and drum corps. 12,000 participants, 35 floats and 50 marching bands made up the parade. Some of the most popular floats were the "Spirit of 76," the float commemorating the President's life and the Presidential Committee on Physical Fitness float. 300,000 spectators watched the two hour parade. [*Washington Post*, January 20 and 21, 1973]
- Reviewing Stand:** A juried competition was held to choose the design of the 1973 stand. The winner was the New York City firm, Poor and Swanke Partners, chosen from 61 entrants. Their original design was featured a nautical theme and called for cables to support two "masts" and a nylon sail cloth roof. Fire code and White House grounds regulations required the winning design to be substantially modified. [*Washington Post*, November 20, 1972] Ultimately the design was rejected (for unknown reasons) and the design for the 1969 stand was used again. [David Parker to H. R. Haldeman, November 24, 1972, RG 274, National Archives]
- Other Details:** On inauguration day counter protests were held around Washington, on the National Mall and at Union Station. An estimated 25,000-30,000 took part in these demonstrations against U. S. involvement in Vietnam. [*Washington Post*, January 21, 1973] Protestors lined the streets during the parade and as the presidential limousine returned to the White House after the ceremony, and threw tomatoes, oranges and apples. During the inaugural parade 30,000 protestors staged a march down Constitution Avenue. [*Evening Star*, January 21, 1973]
- Weather:** Temperatures were in the upper thirties-mid forties. [National Weather Service, *Washington Post*, January 18, 1985]



As news of Richard M. Nixon's resignation on August 9, 1974 spread a crowd formed in Lafayette Park. Most of the people in the park were there to witness Nixon's departure by helicopter from the south lawn rather than to demonstrate.

Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library (*Washington Post*, August 10, 1974)

Swearing In of Gerald R. Ford

Friday, August 9, 1974

- Event:** On Richard Nixon's resignation Gerald Ford assumed the presidency. He took the oath of office, administered by Chief Justice Warren Burger, at noon.
- Location:** East Room, White House.
- White House Events:** About 10 am, before the transfer of power, Vice President Ford escorted President Nixon to the helicopter on the South Lawn that would take him and his family back to California. After the ceremony, a press conference was held by President Ford, followed by a reception in the State Dining Room and a dinner for cabinet members.
- Other Details:** Outside the White House and in Lafayette Park crowds gathered to see President Nixon leave by helicopter. [*Washington Post*, August 10, 1974]



President Jimmy Carter's 1977 reviewing stand was designed by a Georgia architect who was selected by the president. The stand was heated with solar energy in order to emphasize Carter's position on energy conservation and the environment.

Office of the Curator, The White House

Inauguration of Jimmy Carter

48th Inaugural
Thursday, January 20, 1977

- Event:** The theme of the inaugural was "A New Spirit, A New Commitment, A New America."
- Location:** Outdoor platform, East Portico, U. S. Capitol. 150,000 witnesses were on hand for the event.
- Parade/Procession:** 350,000 spectators watched the parade that lasted almost two hours. Participants included bagpipers, Crow Indians, American Samoans, unicyclists and Colonel Harlan Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame. President Carter and his family astounded the crowd by walking the length of the parade route, the first time a President had done so.
- Reviewing Stand:** The executive reviewing stand was designed by Atlanta architects Paul Muldawer and Jim Patterson. According to the architects the stand made a statement about President Carter's values: humility, closeness to the people, concern for ecology, concern for resources, historical preservation and energy policy. The cost of the structure was \$178,000. [*Roll Call*, January 27, 1977; *Capital Losses*, p. 434] For the first time the stand was set at an angle so that the entire façade of the White House was visible.
- White House Events:** At Carter's request the traditional inaugural luncheon was not held.
- Other Details:** This was the first inaugural at which special provisions were made for the physically disabled to watch the parade.
- Weather:** Temperatures were in the mid twenties-low thirties. [National Weather Service, *Washington Post*, January 18, 1985]



In keeping with his wishes for a “short, snappy parade” Ronald W. Reagan’s 1981 parade included only 7,700 marchers. Because of his well-known affection for horses there were over 450 equine participants. The parade ended with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir serenading the president in the reviewing stand.

Office of the Curator, The White House

Inauguration of Ronald W. Reagan

49th Inaugural
Tuesday, January 20, 1981

- Event:** President Reagan's first inauguration was happily coincided with the release of 52 Americans held hostage in Iran for 444 days. The news of this event contributed to the festive mood of this inaugural. The theme of the inaugural was "America—A New Beginning."
- Location:** Outdoor platform, West Front, U. S. Capitol. About 100,000 spectators witnessed the ceremony. This was the first time an inaugural was held on the West Front; the location was changed in order to accommodate more spectators. [*Washington Post*, January 21, 1981]
- Parade/Procession:** The President had expressed his desire for a "short, snappy parade." About 300,000 people watched 7,700 participants march down Pennsylvania Avenue. The President's affection for horses was well known and about 450 horses also participated in the parade. Other participants included the marching band from the President's high school, Dixon High, from Illinois, Alaskan dog sledders and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, which brought up the rear and serenaded the President and Mrs. Reagan in the reviewing stand. General Omar Bradley was the parade's grand marshal. President Reagan seemed to enjoy the parade; in the stand he sang and clapped along with passing musical groups. [*Washington Post*, January 21, 1981]
- Reviewing Stand:** The design for the executive stand was not chosen by competition because of limited time.
- Other Details:** The traditional White House luncheon was held in Statuary Hall, U. S. Capitol. This event, like many previously private portions of the inaugural, was televised.
- Mini-inaugural celebrations were held all over the United States and linked by satellite in the first attempt to bring inaugural festivities to other cities.
- At President Reagan's request, the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse was quickly redecorated and lit in honor of the Iranian hostages' homecoming.
- Weather:** Mild with temperatures in the fifties.



President Ronald W. Reagan's second inauguration in 1985 was marred by sub-arctic temperatures that forced the cancellation of the parade. The reviewing stand was never used; this image shows National Park Service personnel removing items from the site on the morning of the scheduled parade.

National Park Service, Office of White House Liaison

2nd Inauguration of Ronald W. Reagan

50th Inaugural

Sunday, January 20 and Monday, January 21, 1985

- Event:** President Reagan's second inaugural was marked by sub-zero temperatures which forced the cancellation of most outdoor events. As January 20 fell on a Sunday the President took the oath of office twice; a small private ceremony was held at the foot of the Grand Staircase in the White House on Sunday and a public ceremony was held on Monday. The theme of the inaugural was "We the People."
- Location:** Cold weather forced the ceremony indoors to the Rotunda of the Capitol. 26,000 seats had been erected on the platform at the Capitol; most ticketholders were not able to see the ceremony as the Rotunda could only accommodate 1,000 spectators. [*Washington Post*, January 21, 22, 1985]
- Parade/Procession:** The planned parade was to include 10,000 marchers, 11 floats and 730 horses. Participants were to include 43 marching bands and the Olympic equestrian team. The cancellation of the parade disappointed many groups that had worked months to fund their visit to Washington. On the 21st some parade participants performed at the Capital Center (U. S. Air Arena) for the President in an attempt to compensate for the cancelled parade. This event however could not accommodate all of the participants and was not open to the public. [*Washington Post*, January 22, 1985] The inaugural committee was forced to refund 25,000 tickets worth almost \$900,000 because of the cancelled parade. [*Washington Post*, January 22, 1985]
- Reviewing Stand:** The reviewing stand was similar to the 1981 stand except for a large presidential seal placed over the center of the stand and a smaller seal on the front of the executive seating area.
- Weather:** Severe temperatures led to the cancellation of most outdoor events. The cancellation of the parade was based on medical advice however some visitors questioned the decision.
- Other Details:** Inaugural events for the public began on January 18th. A musical performance entitled "We the People" was held on the Ellipse on Friday afternoon and followed by evening fireworks. President Reagan attended the show as did 16,000 spectators. [*Washington Post*, January 21, 1985]



In 1989 George Bush revived the custom, first used by President Madison, of hosting a public reception after the inauguration. President and Mrs. Bush greeted 4,300 guests, many of whom had camped out overnight for a chance to meet the new president and first lady.

George Bush Presidential Library

Inauguration of George Bush

51st Inaugural
Friday, January 20, 1989

- Location:** Outdoor platform, West Front, U. S. Capitol. 200,000 spectators watched the ceremony from the Capitol grounds. After the ceremony President and Mrs. Reagan left the Capitol by helicopter for Andrews Air Force Base from where they would leave for California.
- Parade/Procession:** The parade lasted almost four hours and over 300,000 spectators lined the route to watch participants such as the Yale University Concert Band, returned Peace Corps members and the Kennebunk High School Marching Band pass; in all there were 214 units in the parade. One parade float featured a replica of the Avenger bomber President Bush flew when he was shot down in World War II. General Chuck Yeager and Bob Hope were grand marshals of the parade. 35,000 flags were distributed to spectators standing along the line of march. At three points along the parade route President and Mrs. Bush exited their limousine and walked a few blocks to the delight of the crowd. [*Washington Post*, January 21 and 22, 1989]
- Reviewing Stand:** The reviewing stand was the same design used in 1985.
- White House Events:** The day after the inauguration President Bush resurrected an old White House tradition of inviting the public for a reception. 4,300 members of the general public were able to greet the President and Mrs. Bush for the "White House American Welcome." [*Washington Post*, January 22, 1989]
- Other Details:** An opening celebration was held to kick off several days of events for the public. At the nighttime opening spectators were given flashlights to illustrate the President's 1000 points of light concept.



In 1993 William Jefferson Clinton continued the “new tradition” of hosting a White House reception the day after the inauguration. Two receptions were held, one for the general public and one for residents of Arkansas, the president’s home state.

The White House

Inauguration of William J. Clinton

52nd Inaugural
Wednesday, January 20, 1993

- Event:** The 1993 presidential inauguration celebrated the first time a Democrat had held the office in more than 10 years and was consequently quite festive. The theme of the celebration was "An American Reunion."
- Location:** Outdoor platform, West Front, U. S. Capitol. 250,000 people were on the Capitol grounds for the event. Singer Marilyn Horne and poet Maya Angelou participated in the ceremony.
- Parade/Procession:** The 10,000 participants included Alaskan dog sledders, panels from the AIDS quilt, and an Elvis impersonator. President and Mrs. Clinton walked the last few blocks of the 15 block long route to the White House.
- Reviewing Stand:** The reviewing stand was the same design first used in 1985 and again in 1989.
- White House Events:** The day after the inauguration a reception was held at the White House. The President, Vice President and their wives greeted visitors for six hours. A lottery was held for tickets to a general reception hosted in the morning. In the afternoon a separate reception was held for residents of Arkansas. (*Washington Post*, January 22, 1993)
- Other Details:** The Clinton arrived in Washington from Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's estate, in order to recreate the route Jefferson took when he came to Washington. The inauguration was preceded by a week's worth of public events and activities including a march across the Arlington Memorial Bridge led by the Clintons that drew 18,000 people.
- Weather:** Chilly and sunny, temperatures in the 40s.



President William Jefferson Clinton's second inauguration in 1997 was notable for the host of activities offered to the public. The inaugural parade, which the president led, featured 6,000 participants and lasted two hours.

National Park Service, Office of White House Liaison

2nd Inauguration of William J. Clinton

53rd Inaugural
Monday, January 20, 1997

- Event:** President Clinton's second inaugural was notable for its extensive program of activities offered to the public. Entertainment, workshops and events for children were featured in tents set up on the National Mall. The theme of this inaugural was "Building a bridge to the 21st century." Accordingly, the inaugural was the first to maintain a web site and be broadcast on the internet.
- Location:** Outdoor platform, West Front, U. S. Capitol. 200,000 spectators were present for the swearing in ceremony. Singer Jessye Norman and Rev. Billy Graham participated in the ceremony.
- Reviewing Stand:** The reviewing stand was the same design first used in 1985, and again in 1989 and 1993.
- Parade/Procession:** 6000 people in 89 units marched in the 1.7 mile long parade. Participants included Eskimos from Alaska, members of the Crow Nation from Montana, marchers carrying panels from the AIDS quilt and returned Peace Corps members. The President led the two hour long parade. [*Washington Post*, January 20 and 21, 1997]
- Other Details:** After the ceremony the President and Mrs. Clinton had lunch at Statuary Hall in the Capitol. The menu for the meal was taken from a book of recipes from Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home.
- Weather:** Cool and sunny.

Summary of Records

Newspaper Collections

Newspaper collections are an excellent source of information for inaugural activities and other national events. The following publications are available at the Library of Congress and many other research libraries.

Baltimore Sun
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper
Harper's
National Intelligencer
Washington Evening Star
Washington Times-Herald
Washington Herald
Washington Post
New York Times
New York Herald

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Ephemera

The historical society possesses an interesting collection of ephemera related to presidential inaugurations, Lafayette Park statue dedications, the women's march of 1913 and war parades. The collection includes items such as programs, tickets and badges. There is a finding aid.

Textual Materials

Manuscript Collection

James Goode Research Collection

James Goode, curator of the Smithsonian Institution building in the 1970s, wrote and researched many books on Washington area art and architecture. His working files are available to researchers. Although the files are divided into five subject areas there is no finding aid. Included in this collection is a file relating to the life and work of Waddy B. Wood, architect of the presidential reviewing stands for 1913, 1933 and 1937. The majority of these papers refer to Wood's designs for residences and buildings; the file

does include a photograph of Wood's architectural rendering of the 1937 reviewing stand.

Clippings Files

The historical society maintains files of newspaper clippings and information from other sources about Washington area topics of interest. There is a finding aid to the subjects on which files are kept. Topics of interest to this report include:

- Grand Army of the Republic
- Andrew Jackson Statue
- Kosciuszko Statue
- Lafayette Statue
- Von Steuben Statue
- Lafayette Park
- Demonstrations
- Inaugurations
- Parades
- Suffragette Parades

Photographic Materials

The historical society maintains a general photograph archive with images dating from the 1870s to the present day. Photos are arranged by location; a small subject index exists. A separate collection of indexed bound photograph albums is also available. Although the albums contain some images relevant to this report the quality of the photographs is generally not very high as most contain amateur snapshots.

Special Photographic Collections

Finding aids are available for the majority of these collections; those of interest include:

- Gordon Bradley Collection 1900-50 (images of the 1919 World War I parade
Lindbergh Transatlantic Crossing Parade and the Ku Klux Klan Parade)

- Machen Print Collection (early prints, many of which have been taken from
printed documents).

Martin Luther King Library, Washington, D.C.

Textual Materials

The library maintains a clippings file on presidential inaugurations and other items of interest to this report.

Photographic Materials

Washington Star Collection

This collection of photos comes from the archives of the now defunct *Washington Star* newspaper and wire services. The collection spans a forty-year period; for *Washington Star* images the library owns the copyright, for wire service images permission must be obtained from the appropriate service.

Washingtoniana Collection

This self-service collection contains over 20,000 photos from a variety of sources relating to events, architecture and personalities in Washington history. Photos of inaugural activities are arranged by president. Other useful headings of interest to this report include: funerals, parades, the White House and Pennsylvania Avenue.

National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

Textual Materials

Several record groups at the National Archives contain information of interest to this report.

Record Group 42 Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital

#159 - Records of "Official Functions" with the "Official Diary of the President" 1902-1916

Bound volumes with narrative describing the day's events. Memorabilia such as programs and tickets and newspaper clipping is pasted or inserted between pages.

**#160 Material Gathered for Compilation of Volumes of Official Functions
1917 and 1921**

Memorabilia, blueprints, drafts and carbons to be used in
the official diary.

#177 Classified Correspondence Relating to the White House 1923-1930

Requests for grandstand seats; financial documents related
to construction and removal of inaugural stands.

**#320 Scrapbook of Material Relating to the Inauguration of President Hoover
March-April 1929**

Bound volume with memorabilia such as stationary,
invitations, badges and tickets and a few photos. Also includes
papers relating to the inaugural guarantee fund and final committee
reports. Includes a report on the special sub-committee for the
housing of African-Americans.

#97 General Correspondence

Contains alphabetically arranged subject files. Entries of
interest to this report:

Presidential Inaugurations 1909-1917 -

Contains blueprints (1909-1913) permissions
regarding construction, documents describing a parade the
day before the 1917 inaugural and a copy of a letter giving
Alice Paul of the National Women's Party permission to
use grounds near the White House for the March 3, 1913
demonstration.

Record Group 66 Records of the Commission of Fine Arts

Records of interest to this report can be found in two categories of this
record group, the general and project files. Each of these categories is arranged
alphabetically by subject heading. A list of headings is given in the appendices to
the finding aid.

4-General Files

Presidential Inaugurations 1921-49

17-Project Files

Lafayette Park
President's Park
John J. Pershing Gate

Record Group 79 Records of the National Park Service

This record group contains no textual records of interest to presidential inaugurals.

Record Group 274 Records of Inaugural Committees

With the exception of the records of Richard Nixon, RG 274 is a temporary classification for the records of presidential inaugural committees until a presidential library is created at which time the records are deposited at the library. Currently RG 274 at the Washington Archives contains the inaugural records of the 1993 inauguration of William J. Clinton. A detailed finding aid exists for the records of this inauguration. Records include those of individual committee members and sub-committees as well as minutes, memos, press clippings, newsletters and after-action reports.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA II), College Park, MD

Textual Materials

The Richard Nixon Presidential Materials Collection

Because no federal presidential library has been established for the papers of Richard Nixon the National Archives currently holds all documents relating to the Nixon administration including the records of the 1969 and 1973 presidential inaugural committees.

Record Group 274 Records of Inaugural Committees includes three groups of files of interest:

White House Central Files Boxes 41-44 (primarily requests from the public to participate in inaugural activities).

Records of the 1969 Inaugural Committee (records of individual committee members and sub-committees as well as minutes, memos, press clippings, newsletters and after-action reports; a detailed finding aid is available).

Records of the 1973 Inaugural Committee (records of individual committee members and sub-committees as well as minutes, memos, press clippings, newsletters and after-action reports; a detailed finding aid is available).

Photographic Materials

Photographic records of presidential inaugurations and other special events can be found in several record groups at the Still Pictures Division. There is a finding aid for inaugural records in the general subject file and other finding aids are available for larger record groups. Additionally, as part of the Richard Nixon Presidential Materials Collection, there is a large collection of images of the 1969 and 1973 inaugurals; these are available in a self service browsing file and in binders of contact sheets.

Record Groups containing photos of interest to this report include:

Record Group 79 Records of the National Park Service (includes the Abbie Rowe Collection, National Park Service photographer for the White House from 1941-67).

Record Group 306 Records of the U.S. Information Agency (includes numerous photos of presidential inaugurations from original and borrowed sources from George Washington to Ronald Reagan).

Record Group 80 General Records of the Department of the Navy

Record Group 127 General Records of the U. S. Marine Corps

Record Group 16 Office of the Secretary of Agriculture

Record Group 111 Records of the Army Signal Corps

Record Group 165 Records of the War Department and Special Staffs (John Moon Collection)

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Photographic Materials

Photographic records at the Library of Congress can be found in the Prints and Photographs Division. Several general finding aids are available to researchers. The Prints and Photographs Division also has prepared handouts describing sources of images for Washington D.C. researchers.

The division is becoming more computer-oriented and many of the traditional finding aids have been supplanted by its searchable web page that allows researchers to search collections over the Internet. Some of these images can only be viewed from computers inside the library however.

Collections of interest to this report include:

U.S News and World Report—card catalog 1955-86

Theodor Horydczak Collection 1923-59

Goode Collection—destroyed and altered structures

Mathew Brady and Brady-Handy

Farm Security Administration

Frances Benjamin Johnston

Abraham Lincoln Papers

National Photo Company

George Prince

Harris and Ewing Collection 1909-1932

New York World Telegram and Sun Collection (needs to be requested 10 days in advance, housed off-site) 1920-67

Browsing Files

Presidents

A self-service collection of frequently requested presidential photos is available; for most presidents there is an inauguration sub-category.

Washingtoniana

This self-service collection of images contains images of Washington arranged by subject. Headings of interest to this report include: fountains, monuments and memorials, streets and the White House.

Stereograph File

This self-service collections contains images from most inaugurations and some presidential funerals from the 1870s until the 1930s.

Textual Materials

The Papers of Waddy B. Wood, Manuscript Division

Waddy B. Wood was a Washington architect who designed the presidential reviewing stands for the inaugurations of 1913, 1933 and 1937. His personal papers are available to researchers in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. Only one folder of the papers is concerned with inaugurations per se; other folders contain ancillary materials. There is a finding aid to the collection. An introduction to the collection states that photographic and architectural materials were transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress, none of these are related to inaugurations however.

The Papers of Theodore A. Bingham, Manuscript Division

Theodore A. Bingham was a colonel in the U.S. Army and was President Theodore Roosevelt's aide de camp. He participated in the arrangements for numerous dignitaries as well as in the preparations for the 1901 inaugural.

Researchers should note that these papers are stored at a satellite facility and must be requested 24-48 hours in advance. There is a finding aid.

Office of the Curator, The White House

This facility has a small collection (two boxes) of inaugural images covering the history of presidential inaugurations. Many of the more recent images are official White House photos; earlier images are taken from various sources such as the Library of Congress and National Archives.

National Park Service, Office of White House Liaison

This facility houses a collection which includes selected images from the collections of the White House, the Abbie Rowe collection described below, the Library of Congress, the National Archives and images taken from publications. In addition to inaugural activities special events of national significance are also represented. The images are catalogued. There is an index to the Abbie Rowe collection.

Marylandia Room, Theodore McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

The university owns the photographic collection of the *Baltimore News American* which includes many of images of inaugurations and special events of interest. The collection covers 1906 to 1986 and includes original and wire service photos. Unfortunately only 20% of the 1.5 million images have been processed. For processed photos a searchable database is available to researchers; for unprocessed images it is possible to locate subjects with a librarian's help. Most photos are in black and white. The library does not own the copyright to any of the materials; permission to publish photos must be obtained from the Hearst Corporation or from the appropriate wire service. Currently, there are 3 folders of images listed under "Inaugurations" and some other images of events of national significance are also available.

Special Collections, Gelman Library, George Washington University, Washington, D. C.

Researchers should note that the Gelman Library is closed to the public. Researchers wishing to view the materials described below should contact the Special Collections Department to schedule an appointment.

Ephemera

The library holds a large collection of late 19th-early 20th century ephemera such as programs, tickets and badges. There is a finding aid. Particularly notable is the Darrell C. Crain Presidential Inaugural Medal Collection.

Photographic Materials

Special Graphics Collection

This collection can be searched on the library's on-line card catalog. Many of these images are old newspapers such as *Harper's* or Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Weekly*.

Charles Suddarth Kelly Collection

This collection details the history of Washington, D. C. It includes images from 1912-1927 taken by Harry Shannon of the Washington Star; 500 postcards from 1890-1920; a small group of photos relating to the work of Washington sculptor Felix de Weldon; 1300 images taken from other sources and 4400 slides.

Nathaniel Moore Collection

The photos in this small collection date from 1889-1910 and are believed to be the work of Washington photographer Frances Benjamin Johnston.

Sewall-Belmont House, Washington, D.C.

The Florence Bayard Hilles Feminist Library at the historic headquarters of the National Women's Party possesses a collection of approximately 3,000 photos related to the Women's Suffrage Movement. Many of these images cover the 1913-1917 protests at the White House gates and in the Washington area. In addition, the library holds the Alva Belmont scrapbook collection; these bound volumes contain clippings related to the women's suffrage movement from major East Coast newspapers from 1909-1931.

American Institute of Architects, Washington, D.C.

A reorganization of the papers, images and architectural drawings in the collection of the AIA is planned for the near future. The collection will be reprocessed and many materials will be available on the World Wide Web. Currently an incomplete card catalog exists for documents; photographs and architectural documents have not been processed and are not available to researchers. The library holds documents relating to the 1961, 1965, and 1969 inaugural reviewing stands. The 1961 file describes the establishment of a juried competition for the selection of the design of the executive reviewing stand.

Division of Political History, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C

The Museum of American History maintains a small collection of presidential inaugural materials. The materials are arranged chronologically and are well labeled; no finding aid is necessary. The majority of the materials covers the late 19th and 20th centuries and includes ephemera, clippings and a few primary documents and photographs. The collection is strongest in mid 20th materials and curators are continuing to collect materials for the collection.

Commission of Fine Arts, Washington, D. C.

This organization has no records relating to the construction of inaugural reviewing stands, most likely because of their temporary nature.

Woodrow Wilson House, Washington, D. C.

This museum has no records of interest to this report other than a program from the 1913 inaugural and a reproduction of the 1913 reviewing stand (available elsewhere).

Office of the Architect of the Capitol, Washington, D. C.

This office maintains files on inaugurals from 1841-present. The files are composed of clippings and photocopies of newspapers, including early periodicals, photographs and images, primary documents, ephemera and syntheses of published materials. In addition, the office maintains handouts of inaugural facts. The office also maintains files on funerals involving the Capitol. Files related to 19th century presidents are the strength of this collection.

Presidential Libraries

All archival records pertaining to the operations of inaugural committees since 1933 have been deposited at the respective presidential libraries. The only such records remaining in the Washington area are the Richard Nixon Presidential Materials at the National Archives II in College Park, MD and the records being temporarily held at the National Archives in Washington described above. The holdings of the presidential libraries are described in the publication *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States*.

Audiovisual Records

Because of the breadth of textual and photographic records available this report did not focus on audiovisual materials. There are however numerous recordings and films available. The following are mentioned as sources for future research.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA II) College Park, MD

Record Group 128 Records of the Joint Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

This record group contains motion picture and video recordings dating 1965-89.

RG 111 Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer

This record group contains newsreel footage of the four inaugurations of Franklin Roosevelt.

Record Group 119 Records of the National Youth Administration

This record group contains newsreel footage of the 1941 inaugural.

*Record Group 208 Records of the Office of War Information
National Archives Collection of Donated Materials*

Record Group 274 The Richard Nixon President Materials Collection contains numerous sound and video recordings of the 1969 and 1973 inaugurals.

Presidential Libraries

Extensive audio, motion picture and video records can be found in the collections of the presidential libraries. These holdings are described in the publication *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States*.

Cartographic and Architectural Records

This listing is provided as a resource for future research; it is not complete.

Many of the above mentioned textual records contain blueprints interspersed with other papers.

National Archives and Records Administration (II), College Park, MD

The Richard Nixon President Materials Collection (RG 274) contains several drawings, plans and blueprints of public grandstands, the parade route and the presidential reviewing stand in addition to other materials pertaining to the inaugurations of 1969 and 1973.

Record Group 42 Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital

158 1909-1919 Inaugurations

Extensive maps, charts, architectural and engineering plans can be found in the collections of the presidential libraries. These holdings are described in detail in the publication *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States*.

Recommendations for Future Research

Associated Builders, Hyattsville, Maryland

This firm has constructed the executive reviewing stand for numerous years.

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