

White House

The Real West Wing Tour



The tour follows this order:

- Northwest Gate*
- West Wing Ground Floor (outside entrance)*
- Rose Garden*
- Cabinet Room
- Oval Office
- Roosevelt Room
- West Wing Lobby (outside entrance)*
- Press Briefing Room*

** -suggested photo opportunity*

Overview:

White House Grounds

- 18 acres of land
- Pennsylvania Avenue closed since 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing
- *Now only for pedestrians*

Blair House

- Built in 1824; in service of Nation since 1942
- During 1930s, was the Penn. Ave. home of Francis Preston Blair, publisher of Globe newspaper and advisor to Andrew Jackson (member of his “kitchen cabinet”), Van Buren and Lincoln
- Truman survived his 1950 assassination attempt while living there during WH renovations
 - *Blair House, as it is known today, is in fact the combination of the original home and 3 other town homes. Together, the 4 buildings are larger than the White House with 119 Rooms and total area of 70,000 sq. feet.*
 - *Visiting dignitaries now stay there; the flag changes according to the country*

Overview:

Pebble Beach/Stonehenge

- Spot was used for stand-ups, but was always muddy and couldn't keep grass
- During Clinton's visit to Africa in 1998, WH installed honeycomb grating and gravel to create Pebble Beach
- It was redesigned by Mrs. Bush to improve the look of the area. She had the gravel replaced by flagstone and got uniform coverings and containers for all the equipment. It is now known as Stonehenge because of the flagstone replacing the white rocks that were on the ground.

Pebble Beach/Stonehenge: Correspondents



- TV cameras have designated spots for reporting throughout the day
- Each correspondent has a unique view of the White House behind him or her in the broadcast
- Correspondents spend majority of day in press briefing room but use Stonehenge for broadcasts and interviews
- Correspondents quickly learned they could also monitor the comings and goings of officials visiting the WH for meetings by turning their cameras to West Executive Ave.

Overview:

White House History

- Cornerstone laid in 1792 in the Palladian style
- Oldest public building in Washington
- Home to every president since John Adams
- Torched by the British in 1814, leaving only exterior walls intact. Reconstruction was completed in 1817. North and South Porticos constructed in 1820 and 1829, respectively
 - *170 feet long and 85 feet deep (main section)*
 - *132 rooms, 6 floors/levels, 8 staircases, 3 elevators, 35 bathrooms, 11 bedrooms, 43 offices (including cubicles), 28 fireplaces, 147 windows, 412 doors, 824 doorknobs, 37 closets, 3 kitchens, 16 refrigerators, 40 sinks*
- Pre-Civil War, the White House was the largest home in America at 55,000 square feet.

White House History Overview Continued

- Originally called “The President’s House”/“Executive Mansion”
- “White House” name became official when Teddy Roosevelt engraved it on stationery in 1901

Point out:

- *EEOB*
- *West Executive Avenue*
- *Press Briefing Room*
- *Residence*
- *Family Theater (mirrors Press Briefing Room)*
- *East Wing (home to FLOTUS office, WHMO, etc.)*

Overview:

Eisenhower Executive Office Building

- Design: Supervising Architect of the Treasury, Alfred Mullett
- French Second Empire architecture style
- Former State, Navy, & War Department building
- Construction began under Grant in 1871; lasted 17 years



Eisenhower Executive Office Building

Eisenhower Executive Office Building Overview Continued

- Formerly known as Old Executive Office Building
- Clinton renamed in 1999; Bush rededicated in 2002
- Houses Indian Treaty Room and Office of VP (former Office of Sec. of Navy) until Carter moved Mondale to WW. VP still has ceremonial office in EEOB
- Contains the original door handles
- Anchors and cannons indicate the Navy and War sections of the building
- Between 1888-1902, soldiers in town for inaugural activities were quartered in the corridors.
- Secretary of War Taft is credited with the installation of the extra brass railings at the stairs. It is said that he asked for the installation after slipping down the steps one day.
- There were once wooden swinging doors on the corridor side of each doorway. They were removed at an unknown date. Oral history leads us to a story of Winston Churchill visiting the building, and upon arriving at one door, an eager young staffer ran out of the office - knocking the cigar out of his mouth. Perhaps this expedited the removal of the doors.

Eisenhower Executive Office Building



- Length of corridors: 1-1/2 miles
- Number of inside doors: 1314
- Number of windows: 1572
- Number offices approx. 550
- Total years for construction: 17 (1871-1888)
- Cost of construction, 1988: 10 million dollars
- First light bulb used in building: 1893

Eisenhower Executive Office Building Continued

- First ever televised Presidential Press Conference ever made: Eisenhower's January 19, 1955 address in Room 474
- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places: 1971



Shown as part of the broadcast was the **JUPITER C** nose cone recovered on 8 August 57.

Overview:

West Wing

- Constructed in 1902 by President Theodore Roosevelt as a temporary office to make more space for his large family in the WH. It replaced greenhouses dating back to the 1850s
- The president's office was originally rectangular and is located in what is now the Roosevelt Room
- FDR's Administration increased the number of presidential staff, necessitating another expansion of the West Wing. Rather than distorting the proportions of the building by extending it further to the south, architect Eric Gugler convinced FDR that the addition of a second story would be appropriate



The Roosevelt Room

West Wing Overview Continued

- The 1934 renovation marked the last substantial structural changes that have been made to the West Wing. President Nixon ordered a number of changes, including the creation of additional offices, which resulted in a reduction of the reception lobby and the creation of the Press Briefing Room. Alterations made in the last 50 years have been matters of interior design and decoration.
- Offices of President and Immediate Staff
 - *Fewer than 100 in WW*
 - *About 60 in EW*
 - *Remaining 2,000 EOP employees in EEOB & NEOB*
- Marine guard stands outside lobby door when the President is in the West Wing

West Wing: Press Stake-Out

- After an official (e.g. Member of Congress, Head of State) meets with the President, he/she can go in front of West Wing to tell reporters what was said in the meeting
- Point out physical location of TV shot



West Executive Avenue

- Was once open to traffic between EEOB and WW
- 1910: Claude Graham-White, pioneer aviator, performs exhibition flight over Washington and lands on West Executive
- When President travels by motorcade, leaves South Grounds driveway
- SR staff for POTUS and VPOTUS park here, as well as the VP
- Motorcades of Cabinet and Congress members, pull up here

West Wing Basement: Jumbo Pictures

- Taken by White House Photographers
- Five photographers in department
- They change based upon President's recent events and major travels; updated several times a month
- First fully digital presidency - over 2.5 million pictures taken of President Bush
- Point out casual ranch shots in corridor

Overview:

West Wing Basement

- Can't take pictures inside West Wing
- Basement houses:
 - *Scheduling*
 - *Staff Secretary*
 - *WH Situation Room*
 - *Mess*
 - *Management & Administration*
 - *Photo Office*
 - *Homeland Security*
 - *Secret Service*

White House Mess

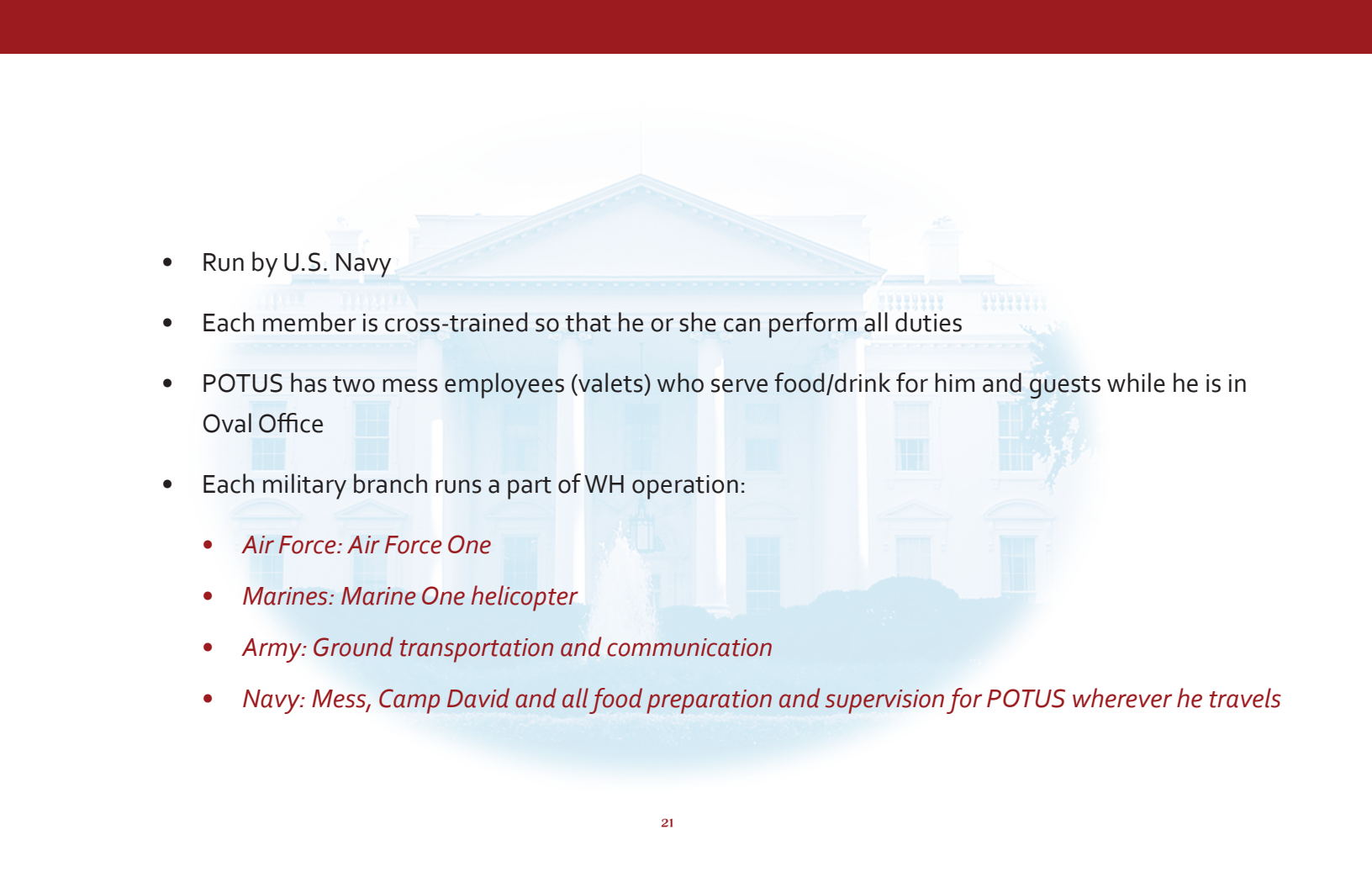
- Outside of Mess is a series of Tom Freeman paintings. Every 6-12 months, Freeman donates another round of work to be displayed outside the mess.
- First painting on right is his rendition of the USS New York, which was constructed in New Orleans. Aside from surviving Hurricane Katrina during construction, the front of the ship is made from 23 tons of recovered steel from Ground Zero. Freeman refused to paint this until a final design was chosen for the WTC Memorial, which he placed in the NY skyline on the left-hand side of the painting.



<http://store.tomfreemanart.com/index.html>

White House Mess:

- Mess gong on wall at side entrance originally from U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides). Ship now rests in the Boston Harbor but there is a model in front of maître d's podium
- Dining room is open for breakfast and lunch on weekdays
- Seating can only be reserved by commissioned officers (each holds a military equivalency rank of a 4-star, 3-star, or 2-star general, depending on title). They are free to bring guests, provided they are not foreign nationals or journalists.
- Executive dining room: Assistants to the President and Cabinet Members; Ward Room can be reserved for larger groups
- Takeout window used by commissioned officers and other WW staff for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Staff are billed monthly for their meals

- 
- Run by U.S. Navy
 - Each member is cross-trained so that he or she can perform all duties
 - POTUS has two mess employees (valets) who serve food/drink for him and guests while he is in Oval Office
 - Each military branch runs a part of WH operation:
 - *Air Force: Air Force One*
 - *Marines: Marine One helicopter*
 - *Army: Ground transportation and communication*
 - *Navy: Mess, Camp David and all food preparation and supervision for POTUS wherever he travels*

White House Mess: History

- 1880: U.S. Navy provides food service aboard presidential yacht U.S.S. Despatch (Hayes)
- 1942: FDR asks Navy to provide mess services for Camp David
 - *First established service ashore*
- 1951: Truman recommends creation of commissioned officers' mess at the White House
- June 1951: Current White House Mess established

Situation Room

- 2006 – May 2007: underwent renovation to update technology.
- 5000 sq. ft. NSC conference intelligence management center
- Operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Secure transmission of information to POTUS and staff when on AF1 or on the road. Can fax to AF1 anywhere in the world
- Secure video teleconference capability; Direct link to secure communication channels of State Department, Defense Department, CIA
- Est. 1962 by JFK after lack of real-time information during Bay of Pigs Crisis
- After Katrina, HSC was looped into the Situation Room. Allows HSC staff increased awareness of domestic incidents

Lower Press Hallway:

“The Million Dollar Hallway”

- Refers to 4 panel set of original Norman Rockwell paintings called “So You Want to See the President?”
- This set has never been reproduced/recreated, and only ran in the Saturday Evening Post once each in November, 1945.
- Painted during FDR’s Admin. Press Sec. Steve Early was good friends with Rockwell. Often discussed how so many common people came to see POTUS. Early invited Rockwell to sit in the WW Lobby for 3 days and sketch individuals waiting to see the President.
- Rockwell presented the work to Early as a gift, and Early placed it in his attic. Upon Early’s death, his family found it and allowed the WH to display it.
- Originally appraised at \$13,000. Today, it is worth much more.

Overview:

Rose Garden

- Presidential reception area. President gives public statements and some press conferences outside Oval Office
- Point out: Podium area; door to Oval Office and Cabinet Room
- Ellen Axson Wilson, first wife of Woodrow Wilson, created the first Rose Garden 1913
- Redesigned in 1961 for President and Mrs. Kennedy
- Nixon's daughter, Tricia, married in Rose Garden in 1971
- President Bush's cousin had wedding reception in June 2006
- Location of annual Turkey Pardoning



Photo op with Oval Office in background

Rose Garden Colonnade

- Point out Residence on second floor
- Every President since 1902 has walked to work everyday from Residence to the WW through colonnade
- President Bush refers to it as his "45 second commute,"
- Initially built by Jefferson to help hide/house the stables and laundry rooms
- Colonnade ramp created under FDR to make WW handicap- accessible. WH was one of the first buildings in America to accommodate people with disabilities
- Famous pictures of Reagan in brown suit and JFK and RFK talking taken here

Overview:

South Lawn

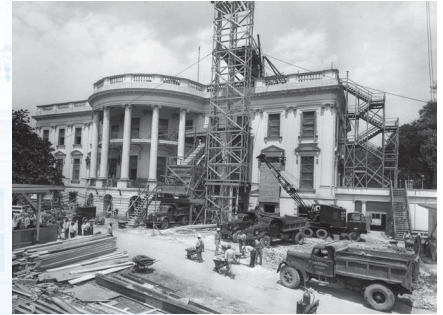
Location of:

- Presidential departures and arrivals on Marine One
- White House Tee Ball games
 - *2-3 times a year*
 - *Started 2001*
- State arrival ceremonies
- Easter Egg roll

South Lawn, Continued

Point out:

- Truman Balcony, built 1948 during major WH renovation
- Barney's and Miss Beazley's dishes in corner
- Tennis & basketball courts



1948 Renovations

Overview: Cabinet Room

- Used for meetings between President and:
 - *Cabinet*
 - *Members of Congress*
 - *Heads of State*
- Truman sworn in here April 12, 1945, after FDR's death
- President must physically be in room to use
- Redesigned by Mrs. Bush. She brought back some of the original features of the room
- Mahogany table seats 20
 - *Gift from Nixon in 1970*

Cabinet Room, Continued

- President occupies tallest chair in center of far side of table
 - *Red button on table: President can alert stewards of need for drinks, etc.*
- When the Cabinet meets around the large table, protocol says that each member sit in his assigned chair positioned at the table according to the seniority of the department represented.
 - *To POTUS' right: State*
 - *To VP's right: Treasury*
 - *To POTUS' left: Defense*
 - *o To VP's left: AG*
- Senior Staff sits on outside border
- Sometimes varies due to topic of meeting

- When Cabinet members conclude their terms of service, they are permitted to purchase their cabinet chairs, which bear brass plates indicating their cabinet position(s), and dates of service. (VP has 3, Rumsfeld had 5)
- President has some discretion when creating Cabinet rank officials
- Bush Administration:
 - *15 Cabinet Members*
 - *6 Cabinet rank officials: VP and CoS; EPA Administrator; OMB Director; Drug Czar; U.S. Trade Representative*
- Cabinet Liaison: WH liaison with each Cabinet department



Cabinet Room Art

- Traditionally, each new president selects portraits of favorite former presidents to hang in the Cabinet Room.
- President Bush chose:
 - *Marble busts: Washington & Benjamin Franklin*
 - *Portraits: TR, Jefferson, Eisenhower, Washington*
 - *Above mantel: "The Signing of the Declaration of Independence" by Édouard Armand Dumaresq, (c. 1860). Several characters in the painting, including B. Franklin, are not finished and remain sketches, giving them a ghostlike appearance*
- Washington portrait painted by Charles Peale – son Rembrandt Peale painted Washington portrait in Oval Office

George Catlin Paintings



“Osceola, the Black Drink, a Warrior of Great Distinction,” from 1838.

- In-depth study of Native Americans took place 1861-1869
- On loan from National Gallery of Art
- Some here since Reagan Administration
- His cousin was Frederick Remington
- Earliest depictions of Native Americans
- All oil painted on wood

Overview

Oval Office

- The President's working office (which was rectangular) moved to the newly constructed West Wing in 1902.
- In 1909, Taft built the first Oval Office in what is now the Roosevelt Room. FDR relocated it to its current location overlooking the Rose Garden in 1934
- Very much a working office for this President- hosts all meetings in Oval unless group is too large, in which case it takes place in the Roosevelt Room



Oval Office

Norman Rockwell

Statue of Liberty Painting



The Saturday Evening Post
Cover - July 6, 1946

- Outside Oval Office
- Given to WH during Clinton Administration by Steven Spielberg and his wife, Kate Capshaw.
- Clinton took it home after leaving the WH and had to return it.
- Rockwell painted himself with the pipe on top of the flame.

Childe Hassam

Avenue in the Rain (1907)

- Painted U.S. flags hanging in NYC over 5th Ave. during last days of WW1 on a rainy day in NYC. Gift during the Kennedy years; hung in Bush 41's private dining room, Reagan's private study.
- Hung in Clinton's Oval and is frequently seen in TV shows/movies made during that period, such as "*The West Wing*," *Independence Day*, and *The American President*



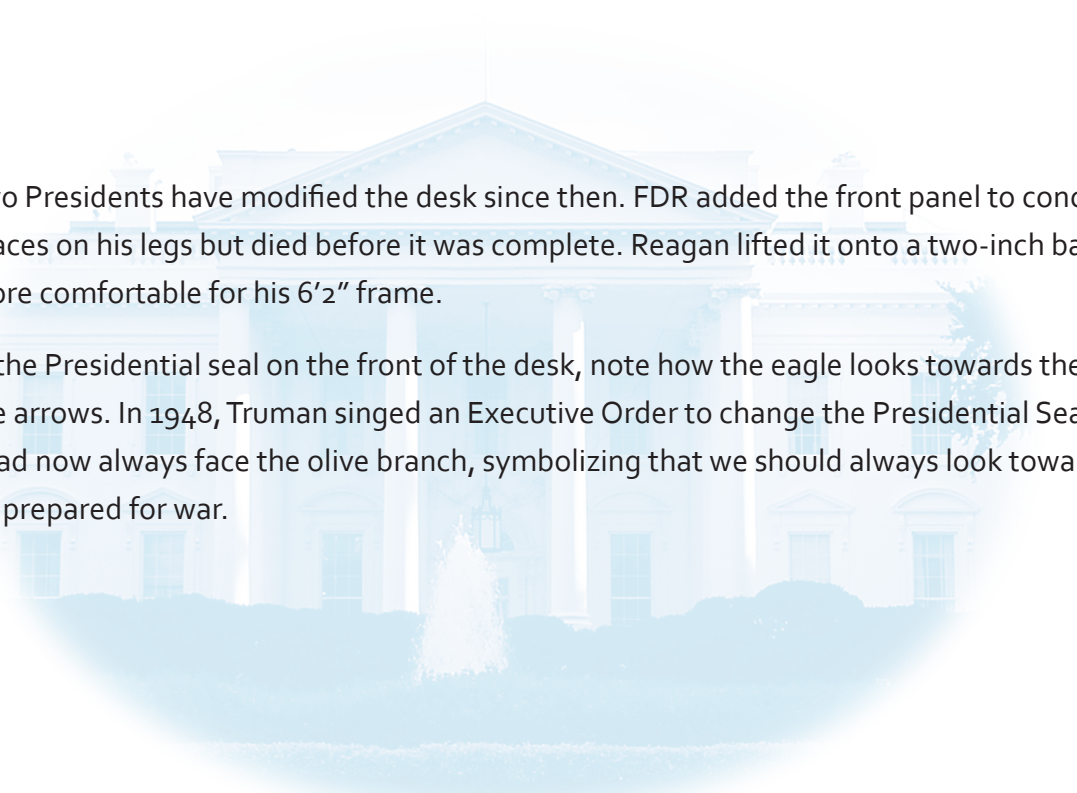
The Avenue in the Rain

Oval Office Decoration:

- Each President decorates office according to own tastes
 - *Bright design by President Bush symbolizes the optimism he has for the country*
- Constants:
 - *White marble mantle, 1909*
 - *Presidential seal in plaster on ceiling medallion*
 - *Two flags behind President's desk (U.S. flag and President's Flag)*

Oval Office, Resolute Desk:

- Almost every president since Rutherford B. Hayes (except Presidents Johnson, Nixon, and Ford) has used the same desk.
 - *Bush 41 used the desk but in the private office; used his VP desk in the Oval*
- The desk was built from timbers salvaged from the HMS Resolute, an arctic rescue vessel used by the British that broke up and became icebound near Greenland in 1854. When the ice broke, the ship drifted without crew for more than one thousand miles until discovered by an American ship, which took it to Connecticut. It was later refurbished and returned to England, as a token of good will, where it served the Royal Navy for two more decades.
- Cost \$300,000 to refurbish
- When the vessel was decommissioned, Queen Victoria decided to turn the wood into a desk for POTUS. The 1,300-pound desk was delivered to President Rutherford B. Hayes in November 1880.

- 
- Two Presidents have modified the desk since then. FDR added the front panel to conceal the braces on his legs but died before it was complete. Reagan lifted it onto a two-inch base to make it more comfortable for his 6'2" frame.
 - In the Presidential seal on the front of the desk, note how the eagle looks towards the talon with the arrows. In 1948, Truman signed an Executive Order to change the Presidential Seal. The eagle's head now always face the olive branch, symbolizing that we should always look towards peace but be prepared for war.

Oval Office: Seating

If looking at fireplace:

- President sits on right
- Visiting Head of State sits on left (the right side of the President)
 - *US delegation sits on President's side, visiting delegation sits on side of visiting HOS (according to Dept. of State Protocol)*
- When HOS not in room, Vice President sits on left

Staff pull chairs from edge of room as needed

Oval Office Rug:

Specially designed in 2001 for President George W. Bush by President and Mrs. Bush (30'5" x 23'5")

- Used Reagan's rug until completion
- President's seal located in center on gold/ivory field of rays
- Laurel leaves on principal border
 - *Represents classical Greek victory wreaths*
- Eight blue, five pointed Texan stars separate laurel branches

Original picture of President's Cabinet has Reagan's rug; retaken this year to have President Bush's rug in the picture

Oval Office floor was redone in 2005

[after desk, move clockwise around the room]

Oval Office Art:

A Charge to Keep

By W.H.D. Koerner; Oil on canvas, 1929

- Used to illustrate story written by Ben Ames Williams and serialized in *The Country Gentleman* in 1918
- Also hung in his Texas Governor's office
- Title from Charles Wesley hymn
- Hymn sung at prayer breakfast at POTUS' first inauguration as Governor
- Title also used for President's book
- Loaned by friends Jan and Joe O'Neill



A Charge to Keep painting

Oval Office:

A Charge to Keep Explanation

Painting of "a horseman determinedly charging up what appears to be a steep and rough trail. This is us. What adds complete life to the painting for me is the message of Charles Wesley that we serve one greater than ourselves."

- George W. Bush in *A Charge to Keep*

Oval Office:

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Underneath A Charge to Keep

By Nilson Tregor

Bronze bust, 1957

- Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Becker, 1970
- President Eisenhower sat for the sculptor in the White House

Oval Office:

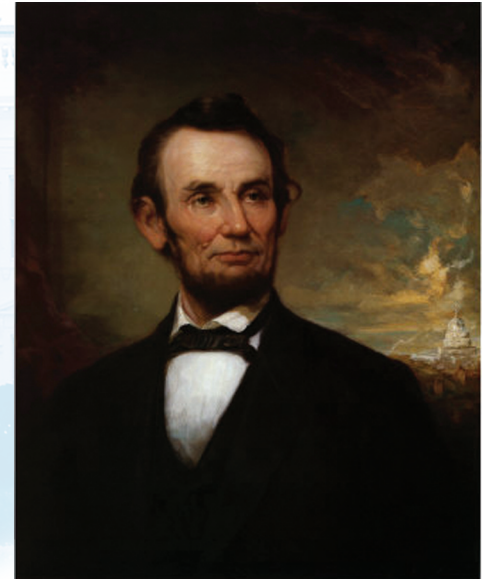
Abraham Lincoln (painting)

By George Henry Story

Oil on canvas, c. 1915

- Gift of the White House Historical Association
- Section of wall where POTUS hangs most personally influential former president

- "Lincoln hangs on wall; 41 hangs in heart."



Abraham Lincoln painting

Oval Office:

Chili Queens at the Alamo

By Julian Onderdonk

Oil on canvas mounted on panel

- Chili stands were nightly tradition in plazas of San Antonio
- Women purveyors known as “chili queens”



Chili Queens at the Alamo
By Julian Onderdonk

Chili Queens at the Alamo

Oval Office:

Cactus Flowers

Underneath Chili Queens at the Alamo

By Julian Onderdonk

- Oil on canvas
- Lent by Witte Museum, San Antonio



Cactus Flowers

Oval Office:

George Washington

By Rembrandt Peale

Oil on panel, c. 1823

- Over fireplace
- Original likeness believed to be that which hangs in Old Senate Chamber of U.S. Capital

Oval Office:

Abraham Lincoln

By Augustus Saint-Gaudens

Bronze bust, late 19th century

- Derived from artist's 1887 standing figure in Chicago's Lincoln Park
- Gift of White House Historical Association, 1975

Oval Office:

Rio Grande

(Between secretary's door and fireplace)

By Tom Lea

Oil on canvas, 1954

- Lent by El Paso Museum of Art
- Hung in honor of Mrs. Bush's mother, Jenna Welch, who is from El Paso

Oval Office:

Winston Churchill

(underneath Rio Grande)

By Sir Jacob Epstein

Bronze bust, 1946

- On loan from the United Kingdom; presented to President Bush by Tony Blair in 2001
- First time a bust of a non-American is in the Oval Office

Oval Office:

Near San Antonio

(between clock and desk)

By Julian Onderdonk

Oil on Canvas

- Lent by San Antonio Museum of Art
 - *Significance: cultural Texas – reminds President and Mrs. Bush of home*



Near San Antonio

Oval Office:

The Bronco Buster

By Frederick Remington

Bronze, c. 1903



Oval Office:

Interesting Info

- Peephole on door to personal staff's office
- Glass door leads to Rose Garden
- Private dining room, restroom and study located next to Oval Office
- Fireplace works
- President's desk clean because of Staff Secretary system- all paper flow managed
- Fresh flowers come from White House Florist

Overview:

Roosevelt Room

Presently occupies the site of the president's office and anteroom in the original WW design on 1902. The wooden mantel now in this room was, in fact, made for the 1902 President's office.

Was first referred to as the "Fish Room" because of the aquariums and fishing mementos displayed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The tradition of this name continued into the early 1960s when President Kennedy displayed a large mounted sailfish which he had caught near Acapulco, Mexico.

- False skylight in ceiling
- Used by the President to conduct larger meetings, as well as interviews with the media
- Used by the President to conduct larger meetings, as well as interviews with the media

Overview: Roosevelt Room continued

The likenesses of Teddy Roosevelt and FDR on the north wall, as well as the painting of TR (charging up the hill at San Juan), will change depending on the President's party. When a Republican is in office, TR's bronze likeness will be on top and the painting will hang above the mantel. When a Democrat is in office, FDR's bronze likeness will be on top and a painting of him will hang above the mantel

The flags for each of the five uniformed services are displayed at the west end of the room, along with the U.S. flag and the Presidential flag. They are displayed in the order of official/ceremonial precedence of the services (Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard). Attached to each service flag are a series of streamers depicting wars, campaigns, specific battles, etc., in which the service participated. Streamers may also represent foreign recognition of the U.S. military services as well as specific Presidential citations. They are awarded in recognition of heroism or meritorious service that is the result of a group effort.

Roosevelt Room:

Nobel Peace Prize and Congressional Medal of Honor

In glass case on wall

Awarded to Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 for mediation of Russo-Japanese war peace settlement

TR Association presented medal to President Reagan as a gift to WH on 125th anniversary of TR's birth

First Nobel Prize awarded to an American

TR, Woodrow Wilson, & Jimmy Carter are the only Presidents to win Nobel Peace Prize

Hung on opposite wall: TR's Congressional Medal of Honor – awarded posthumously in 2001

Honors TR's efforts in Spanish-American War's Battle of San Juan Hill

Roosevelt Room:

Systems

- West End: cabinet houses presentation system
- Built 2001 by WH carpenters
- After 9/11, installed secure video conference system

Roosevelt Room North Wall Art:

Franklin D. Roosevelt

By John DeStefano

Bronze Plaque, c. 1933.

Profile bust portrait surmounted by a spread-winged eagle and flanked by fasces, the Roman symbol of authority. Sculpted at the beginning of Roosevelt's first term, the plaque has a title panel that includes a quotation from the Roman Statesman Seneca- "*I shall hold my rudder true.*"

Roosevelt Room North Wall Art:

Theodore Roosevelt

By James Earle Fraser

Bronze-patinated metal plaque, c.1920

Profile bust portrait with quotation, "Aggressive fighting for the right is the noblest sport the world affords." The sculptor is best known for his Indian figure, *The End of the Trail*, and his design of the buffalo nickel.



Theodore Roosevelt bronze plaque

Roosevelt Room North Wall Art:

Crossing the River Platte



Crossing the River Platte

By Worthington Whittredge

Oil on canvas, c.1871

Whittredge was one of three distinguished artists who accompanied the 1865-66 General John Pope expedition across the Plains along the Platte River and Rocky Mountains from Kansas to New Mexico. Back in New York, he painted this scene of Indians fording the river in what is now eastern Colorado

Roosevelt Room East Wall Art:

Theodore Roosevelt

By Tade Styka

Oil on canvas, c. 1909

- This equestrian portrait depicts Roosevelt in a tan uniform, possibly his Rough Rider outfit
- It is believed to have been painted at the time that Roosevelt visited the artist's studio near Paris during his European tour after his term of office



Styka's portrait of Theodore Roosevelt over the fireplace

Roosevelt Room South Wall Art:

View of the City of Washington from the Virginia Shore

By William Macleod

Oil on Canvas, 1856

- The artist painted this view of Washington from across the Potomac near his native Alexandria, VA.
- The most prominent structures of the somewhat distant city are the unfinished Washington Monument at the left, the U.S. Capitol with the earlier Bulfinch dome at center, and the Washington navy Yard at the right. The artist painted himself at work in the lower right foreground.

Roosevelt Room South Wall Art:

Our Vanishing Wildlife

By Alexander Pope

Bronze sculpture c. 1915-1924

- This bronze group depicting a bison battling three wolves was displayed by Pope at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco in 1915 at which it was judged one of the best sculptures
- The wall behind you is the private dining room and study. Bust of Washington, not wearing his wig and a bronze of Nathan Hale on the table.
- The jars and vases date back to the Ming Dynasty

Overview:

West Wing Lobby

- Visitors who come to the West Wing to meet with the President or his staff are welcomed in the Lobby.
- In 1934, when the Oval Office and the Cabinet Room were moved into the eastern extension of the West Wing, a new lobby was created at the center of the building with access via a narrow foyer leading from the entrance to the north.
- Was once a gathering space for the ever-growing press, but Nixon had the press moved to the newly-built Press Briefing Room atop the swimming pool

West Wing Lobby:

Gallery Clock

- Gilded wood, c. 1810
- Type used in churches and public assembly buildings
- Made by Simon Willard, most prominent member in famous clocksmith family
- Notice the number four has four bars instead of traditional Roman numeral
- Four bars achieve symmetry
- 13 gold balls represent 13 original colonies. 3 like it (made entirely of wood) WW, Old North Church, US Capitol

West Wing Lobby:

Emigrant Scene

Attributed to William Henry Powell

Oil on canvas, c. 1837

- Depicts wagon train members receiving directions from Native American guide
- Painted by 14 yr. old
- Painting becomes less detailed from left to right
- Some say artist is boy on right side

West Wing Lobby:

Bookcase

- Mahogany, c. 1770 (oldest piece in White House)
 - *Donated during the Nixon Administration*
- Contains bound copies of Presidential documents from certain administrations
- Speeches, proclamations, executive orders, etc.
- Bird Figurines:
 - *California quail*
 - *Pair, issued 1957-68; 2 of set of 500*

West Wing Lobby:

Washington Crossing the Delaware

By Eastman Johnson

Oil on canvas, 1851

- Authorized reproduction of American Revolution scene
- Prints from piece increased popularity of scene
- Original displayed in Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Historical inaccuracies: flag had not yet been designed; Gen. Washington would not have been standing in front of the boat due to his fear of water and the harsh weather conditions; women would most likely not be rowing the boat

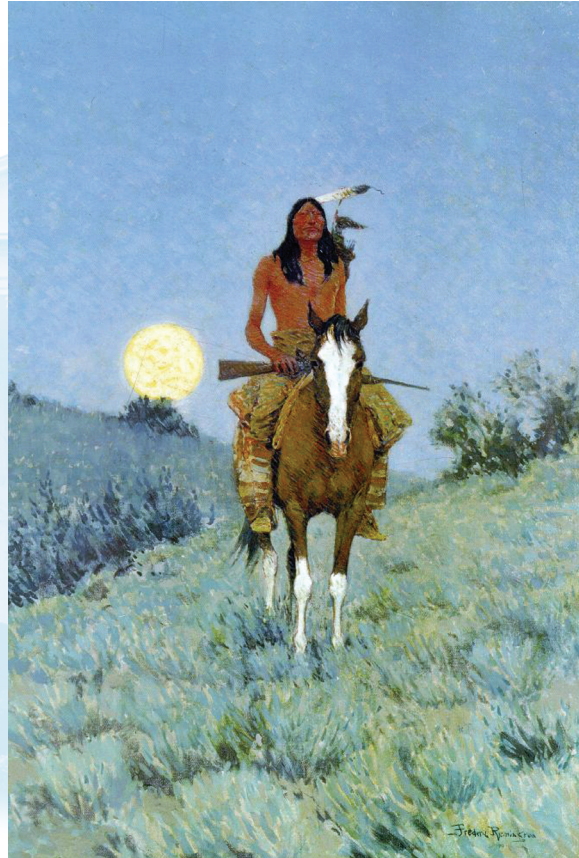
This is a replica; the original is life-size and would take up the entire wall

West Wing Lobby:

The Outlier

By Frederick Remington

Oil on canvas, 1909



West Wing Lobby:

John Tyler

By James Reid Lambdin

Oil on canvas, 1841

President 1841-1845; Replaced William Henry Harrison after Harrison died one month after taking office

Tyler's death in January 1862 was the only one in presidential history not to be officially mourned in Washington because of his allegiance to the Confederacy. Tyler is often considered the only president to die outside the US because his place of death (Richmond, VA) was part of the Confederate States at the time.

"Hail to the Chief" was first played to introduce the President at James Polk's inauguration, but it was Tyler's wife who liked it so much that she asked it to be played to introduce the President.

West Wing Lobby:

Cannonading on the Potomac,

October, 1961

By Alfred Wordsworth Thompson

Oil on Canvas, c. 1868-70

- American Civil War Scene of Battle of Ball's Bluff near Leesburg, VA
- Name inscribed on back: Commanding Colonel E.D. Baker, killed in action
- Baker was friend of Abraham Lincoln, whose second son was Baker's namesake
- Future Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes was wounded in the battle

West Wing Lobby:

The First Naval Action in the War of 1812

By William John Huggins

Oil on canvas, 1816

- Depicts scene five days after U.S. declared war on Great Britain 1812
- Commodore John Rodgers pursuing British frigate H.M.S. Belvidera

West Wing Lobby:

View of Gookin Falls, Rutland, Vermont

By Frederic E. Church, Landscape artist

Oil on canvas, 1848

Shinnecock Hills, Long Island

Williams Merritt Chase

Oil on canvas, 1900

Overview:

First Floor West Wing

In addition to POTUS and VP, houses:

- Chief of Staff and two Deputy Chiefs of Staff
- National Security Advisor
- Press Secretary

Overview:

Second Floor West Wing

- Counselor and Communications Director
- Director of Speechwriting
- Legislative Affairs
- Presidential Personnel
- White House Counsel
- Domestic Policy Council
- National Economic Council

Overview:

Press Briefing Room

(Pictures may be taken by visitors)

Named after James Brady (Ronald Reagan's first Press Secretary), who was wounded during Hinkley's assassination attempt on the President

Site originally housed FDR's swimming pool (paid for by the March of Dimes) which he used for polio rehabilitation. Kennedy used the pool regularly.

During Nixon's Administration, more room was needed for the growing Press Corps in the WW Lobby, and Nixon was noted as exclaiming, "Throw them in the pool!" This notion was taken literally when the briefing room was built on top of the pool. Empty pool is still underneath floor and can be accessed today. Ford built an outdoor pool on the grounds.

President Bush officially reopened the renovated facility on July 11th, 2007.

Press Briefing Room:

Seating

- Current theater-style seating arrangement implemented by Reagan in 1981
- 48 seats, each has internet access
- The White House Correspondents' Association determines who sits where.
- Front row: ABC, NBC, CBS, Helen Thomas (WH correspondent with longest tenure: 50 years)
- About 200 people cover WH daily
 - *60 regular WH correspondents*
 - *Plus: producers, camera people, stills, sound people*

Press Briefing Room:

Daily Use

- Morning: Press Gaggle
 - *Press Secretary briefs reporters on upcoming events*
 - *On the record but not televised*
- Afternoon: on-camera briefing



President Carter briefing the press

Fun Presidential Facts:

- President George W. Bush is related to Presidents Pierce, Fillmore, Lincoln, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, Coolidge, Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, Nixon, and Ford. As well as Winston Churchill, William the Conqueror nine times, Anne Hutchinson and Benedict Arnold.
- Andrew Jackson: No formal education. Held no other political office. Placed 2,000 of his political supporters in government jobs and established a “kitchen cabinet” of informal advisors. In 1835 he paid the final installment of national debt making Jackson the only president of a debt-free United States. He was the only president to serve in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. He was the only president to have been a prisoner of war. He was the first president to have been born in a log cabin. First president to ride a railroad train. Wounded in a duel at the age of 39, Jackson carried the bullet, lodged near his heart, to his grave.

Fun Presidential Facts Continued:

- Millard Fillmore: No formal education. Vice President under Taylor. Fillmore did not meet Taylor until after they were elected. When he moved into the White House, it didn't have a Bible. He and his wife, Abigail, installed the first library. He installed the first bathtub and kitchen stove in the White House. Fillmore could not read Latin and refused an honorary degree from Oxford University, saying a person shouldn't accept a degree he couldn't read.
- Taft is the only person to serve as both President and Chief Justice (1921-1930) of the U.S. He inaugurated the custom of the president throwing out the first ball to start the baseball season. Mrs. Taft was responsible for the planting of the Japanese cherry trees in Washington. Taft, who weighed 332 pounds, got stuck in the White House bathtub the first time he used it. A larger one was ordered. The Tafts owned the last presidential cow and the first White House automobile.
- Presidents Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, and Kennedy were assassinated in office.
- Assassination attempts were made on the lives of Jackson, T. Roosevelt, F. Roosevelt, Truman, Ford, and Reagan.

Fun Presidential Facts Continued:

- Eight presidents died in office: W. Harrison (after having served only one month); Taylor; Lincoln; Garfield; McKinley; Harding; F. Roosevelt; and Kennedy.
- Presidents Adams, Jefferson, and Monroe all died on the 4th of July; Coolidge was born on that day.
- Ulysses S. Grant: Graduated U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. Witness to some of the bloodiest battles in history, Grant could not stomach the sight of animal blood. Rare steak nauseated him. While president, he was arrested for driving his horse too fast and was fined \$ 20. Grant said he knew only two songs. "*One was Yankee Doodle and the other wasn't.*" He smoked 20 cigars a day, which probably caused the throat cancer that resulted in his death.

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Dedicated to: President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush

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