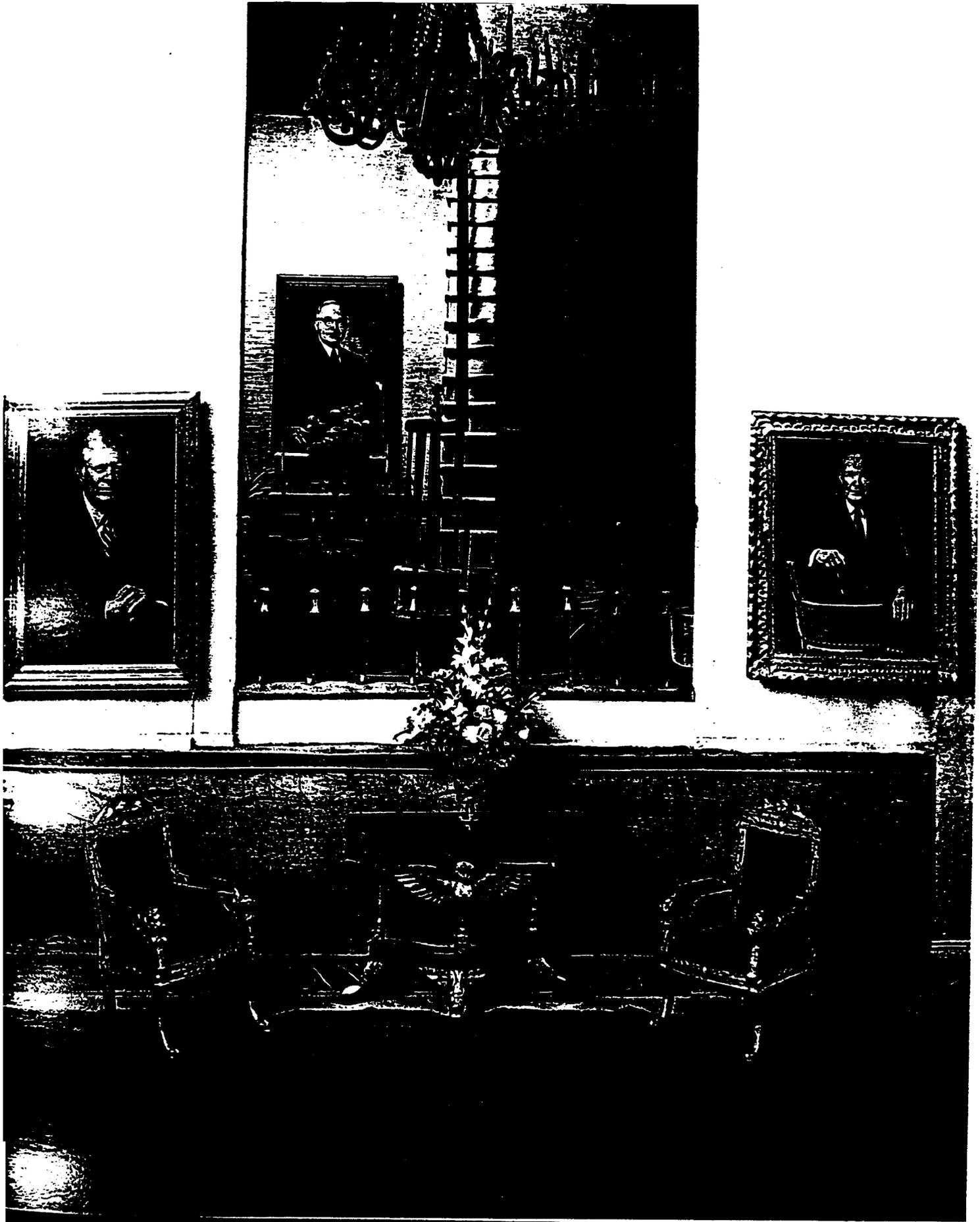


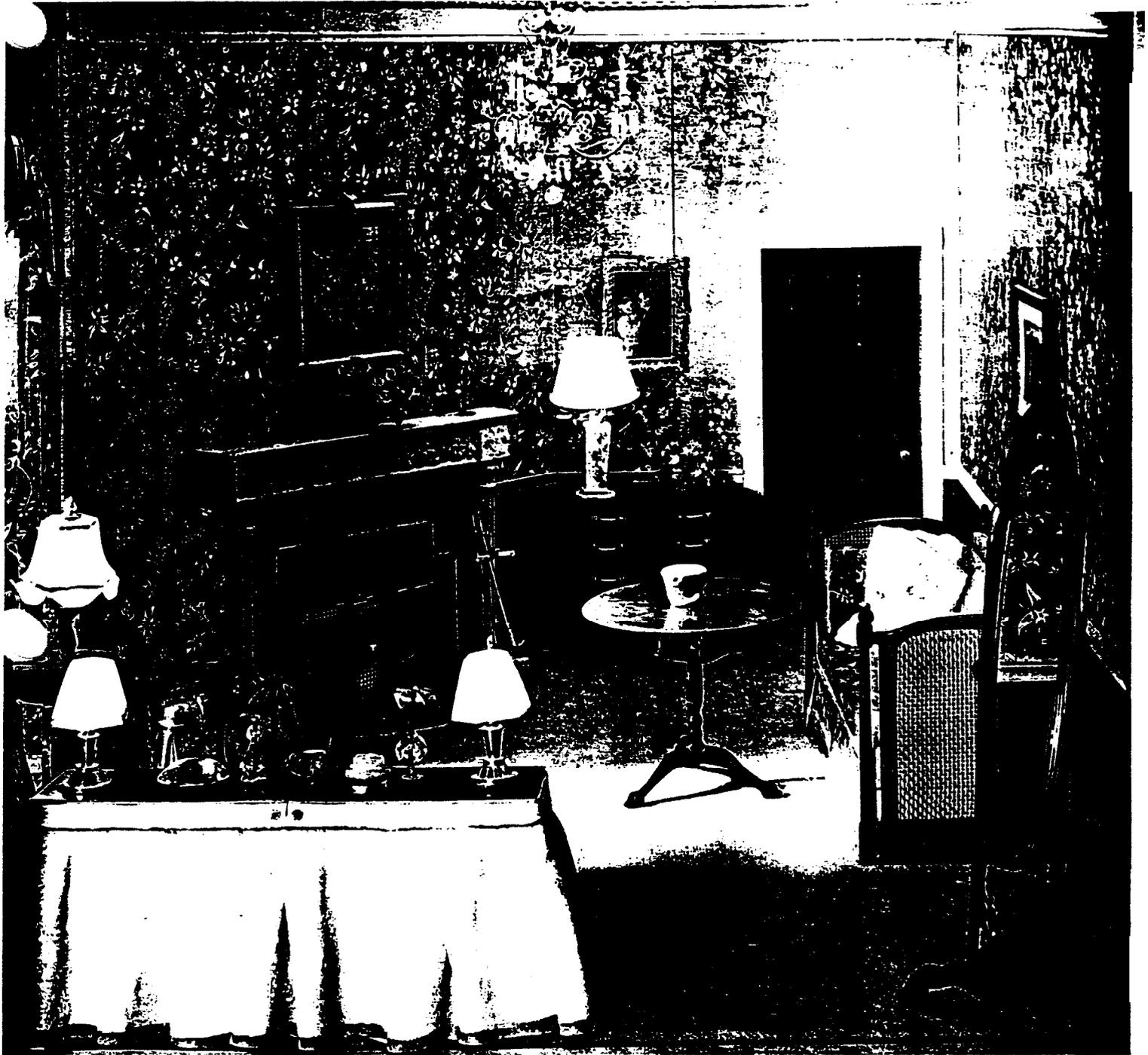
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Tab 1

Main Stairway to Family Quarters

Down these stairs come the president and first lady on every state occasion held at the White House. Tall or short, imposing or not, no one can ignore the entrance of the chief executive when the Marine Band strikes up the first chords of "Hail to the Chief." This is the ceremonial staircase, and it is here that the president, first lady, and their guests of honor are photographed before proceeding to the East Room, where the other guests are gathered. The walk down the red carpet is surely the most romantic image of the presidency. Here is the pomp. Most of the rest of the time, the president is subject to circumstance.





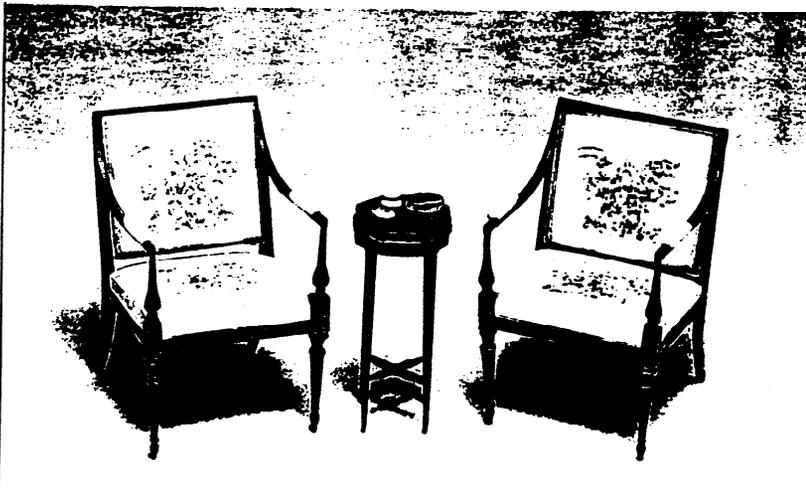
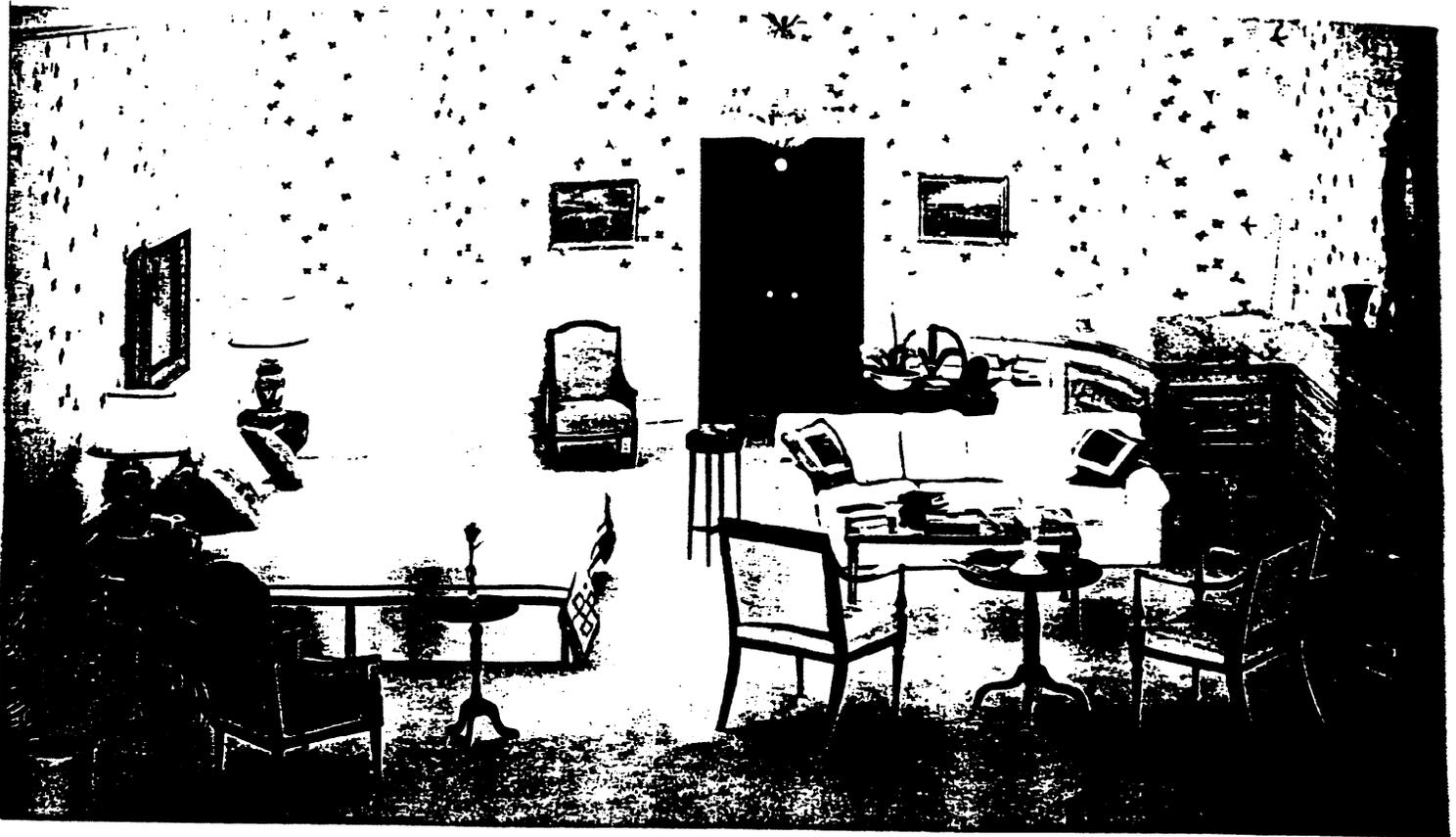
A small, sunny room, the First Lady's Dressing Room has always been a private corner of a very public residence. So private, that in 1801 it was given one of the few water closets in the big, preplumbing house. President Franklin Pierce installed the first stationary bathtub in 1853. Prior to that, men only could bathe in a facility in the east pavilion, and women used portable sitz or hip tubs and shoe-shaped bathtubs made of tin. Dolley Madison bemoaned not being able to save her bathtub from the British in 1814. She was obligated to give precedence to government papers, the silver, and George Washington's portrait.

Located at the southwest corner of the house, this room adjoins the chamber that traditionally has been the master bedroom. Sometimes the presidents' children occupied the room, as did Tad Lincoln and Robert Johnson; sometimes the president reserved it for himself, as did Rutherford Hayes, who labeled it his sanctum or "den." But generally it was the first ladies who called it their own. Ida Saxon McKinley, an epileptic, spent many quiet hours sitting and knitting. Lou Hoover put in a daybed for afternoon naps and a desk for keeping accounts and correspondence; and Nancy Reagan, who decorated it as in the photograph, used it as a dressing room.

The couple who seemed to take the greatest pleasure in this intimate space were President Woodrow and Mrs. Edith Bolling Wilson, the president's second wife. As newlyweds, they found privacy in this corner of the house. The room, since the addition of the bathroom and water closet, had an awkward shape with an off-centered fireplace. Nevertheless, Wilson dressed here, and he and his wife had breakfast, tea, and sometimes lunch or dinner in this crowded space.

With a fire burning, Andrew Johnson's magnificent magnolia tree almost tickling the panes of glass of the large south-facing window, and a perfect view of the Washington Monument, it is obvious why they found it such a pleasant place to be together.

Being pragmatic, Eleanor Roosevelt installed a single bed and slept here. She converted the spacious room next door into her sitting room to accommodate her many and frequent visitors. She and Franklin, whose bedroom was the next room over, had used separate rooms since 1918. Bess and Harry Truman occupied the same rooms as the Roosevelts, Mrs. Truman also choosing to use the dressing room as a bedroom and the larger room as her sitting room.



When the Reagans moved into the White House in January 1981, plans had already been laid to refurbish the second and third floors of the White House. They raised nearly a million dollars from friends and political supporters. Mrs. Reagan enlisted the help of a Los Angeles interior designer and old friend, Ted Graber, to help her make the living quarters "warm and livable." The master bedroom, never seen by the public but here displayed in the replica, beautifully fulfills Mrs. Reagan and Graber's objectives.

The Chinese paper, hand-painted in eighteenth-century style, gives the presidential bedroom its individuality. The lovely, delicate irregular spacing of a wide variety of birds—peacocks, bluebirds, roosters, etc.—around the room creates an airy, open field of color and form.

In order to replicate and reduce the wallpaper for the miniature White House, John and Jan Zweifel made a scale painting of the wallpaper onto a 10-by-12-inch sheet of paper. This was then carefully reduced on a color copier to provide sheets of paper for the walls of the miniature room.

The two diminutive chairs are only 3 inches high and 2 inches wide.

President and First Lady's Bedroom

After the swearing in, the parade, and the inaugural balls, the new president and first lady return to sleep in a room occupied only the previous night by another president and first lady. The changeover in the White House from one family to the next is so fast, so complete, one thinks that it must be done with a sorcerer's magic wand. The president and first lady's bedroom, the most private room in the house, humanizes the peaceful, incredible succession of power. To be able to call the White House home is the ultimate reward for those seeking to serve their country, and an honor bestowed on so few.

All the White House transitions have been swift (except the one from Lincoln to Johnson), but not always sweet. When President and Mrs. Pierce returned from the 1853 inaugural ball, there was no bedroom ready for them, which they considered a great indignity. Woodrow Wilson, who attended no ball but who celebrated first with his family and then at a smoker given for him by Princeton alumni at the Shoreham Hotel, found himself in the White House at midnight ringing assorted bells, not knowing which was which. Wearing only his underwear, he inquired if anyone had seen his trunk. He had no pajamas and, presumably, no toothbrush.

This room was Eleanor Roosevelt's and Bess Truman's sitting room/study but Jacqueline Kennedy reverted it to a bedroom as it had been for most of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. On inaugural night, though, the room was not yet ready, and she slept down the hall in the Queen's Bedroom. Eventually, it was decorated in shades of pale green and blue, and her furniture from her Georgetown house was moved in. The president's bedroom was

across the hall, furnished with an eighteenth-century Chippendale high chest and a mahogany four-poster bed. Mrs. Kennedy did much of her work and her thinking in this bedroom suite.

It was in this room that Willie Lincoln died in the great "Lincoln" bed (see page 186) and James Garfield lay prostrate for months from an assassin's bullet. Because of Garfield's discomfort during the sweltering D.C. summer of 1881, doctors and engineers introduced the first air conditioning system in the United States to cool the dying president.

William McKinley was asleep here when an usher entered the room and whispered in his ear that the secretary of the navy was on the telephone with an important message. The battleship *Maine* had exploded and sunk in Havana harbor just hours before.

In this room, the first Mrs. Wilson passed away, and Woodrow Wilson suffered the stroke that would leave him an invalid for the rest of his life. For weeks he lay here helpless on the huge Lincoln bed.

On April 12, 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt was called to her sitting room and told of her husband's death at Warm Springs. She then summoned to her room the vice-president, who came directly from presiding over the Senate. Truman later wrote, "That was the first inkling I had of the seriousness of the situation." William Seale describes the exchange as follows: "Was there anything he could do for her? Eleanor Roosevelt replied, 'Is there anything *we* can do for *you*? For you are the one in trouble now.'"¹²

President's Study

Walls cannot talk, but if they could, the most dramatic stories these four would tell would center on the years 1933 to 1945. This was Franklin Delano Roosevelt's bedroom. An early riser, the invalid president would often conduct business from his bed. Francis Perkins, secretary of labor, described the bed and surrounding furniture as follows:

*a small, narrow white iron bedstead, the kind one sees in the boy's room of many an American house. It had a thin, hard looking mattress, a couple of pillows, and an ordinary white seersucker spread. A folded old gray shawl lay at the foot . . . A white painted table, the kind one often sees in bathrooms, stood beside the bed, with a towel over it and with aspirin, nose drops, a glass of water, stubs of pencils, bits of paper with telephone numbers, addresses and memoranda to himself, a couple of books, a worn old prayer book, a watch, a package of cigarettes, an ash tray, a couple of telephones, all cluttered together.*¹³

If the president was suffering from one of his chronic colds, the cabinet members would meet in this room. Aides would bring up memoranda and messages, and the papers of state would mingle with personal memorabilia. The mantel, seen on the left of the photograph, held miniature "Mexican pigs, Irish pigs, pigs of all kinds, sizes and colors" alongside family photographs, recalled Perkins.

FDR was an avid collector of many things, and one hobby in particular, stamp collecting, prepared him, quite unexpectedly, for his role as commander in chief during World War II. His naval aide during the war, Captain John L. McCrea, commented many years later that "the President's knowledge of world



geography was amazing. I once expressed surprise that he knew so much about an insignificant lake in a small foreign country." "If a stamp collector really studies his stamps," replied FDR, "he can pick up a great deal of information." This geographical knowledge, often far exceeding that of others under his command, was vital during the war years.



The room appears as it did during the Reagan presidency. The red and white furniture came from Ronald and Nancy Reagan's California home. The desk lamp was made from a fire chief's silver horn, given to President Reagan when he was governor. The furnishings are cozy, comfortable, and familiar because it was here that the Reagans liked to relax. They looked forward to the evenings when dinner was served on trays in front of the television. Within these four walls, there was the semblance of a normal life.

Yellow Oval Room



In 1809, Dolley Madison chose yellow for the prevailing color in the upstairs Oval Room. In 1961, Jacqueline Kennedy decided the room should be decorated with antiques of the Louis XVI style of late-eighteenth-century France. The suite of furniture includes four side chairs and two armchairs made around 1800 by Jean-Baptiste Lelarge. A set of four carved and gilded armchairs were made by C. Sené, also of the Louis XVI period, two of which can be seen in the foreground. This neoclassical style was strongly influenced by Greek and Roman furnishings discovered during the excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum in the late 1750s. The candelabra on the two French Louis XV commodes flanking the mantel were given by Princess Elizabeth of Great Britain in 1951 when she visited President and Mrs. Harry Truman.

Royalty and gold candelabra were not Harry's "style." He'd rather have watched a local baseball game and sit outdoors on a balmy summer's evening. Truman unilaterally decided that a balcony should be added to the second-floor Oval Room, against the loud protests of architects and historians. Truman got his balcony, with its good view of local playing fields, and he thoroughly enjoyed using it. If you want to know what his architectural transgression looks like, pull out a \$20 bill.

When Millard and Abigail Fillmore moved into the House in 1850 after the death of Zachary Taylor, there was not a Bible or dictionary or any other book to be found. Mrs. Fillmore, a former school-teacher, did not consider a house a home without a library, and if this big white "temple of inconveniences," as her husband described it, was to be habitable for herself, her family, and future first families, there had to be books. They received money from Congress to buy some, and in the second-floor Oval Room she created her library and family room.

The Yellow Oval Room is one of the prettiest rooms in the house. Three stately windows facing the South lawn, Washington Monument, and Jefferson Memorial provide one of the best views in Washington and flood the room with light.

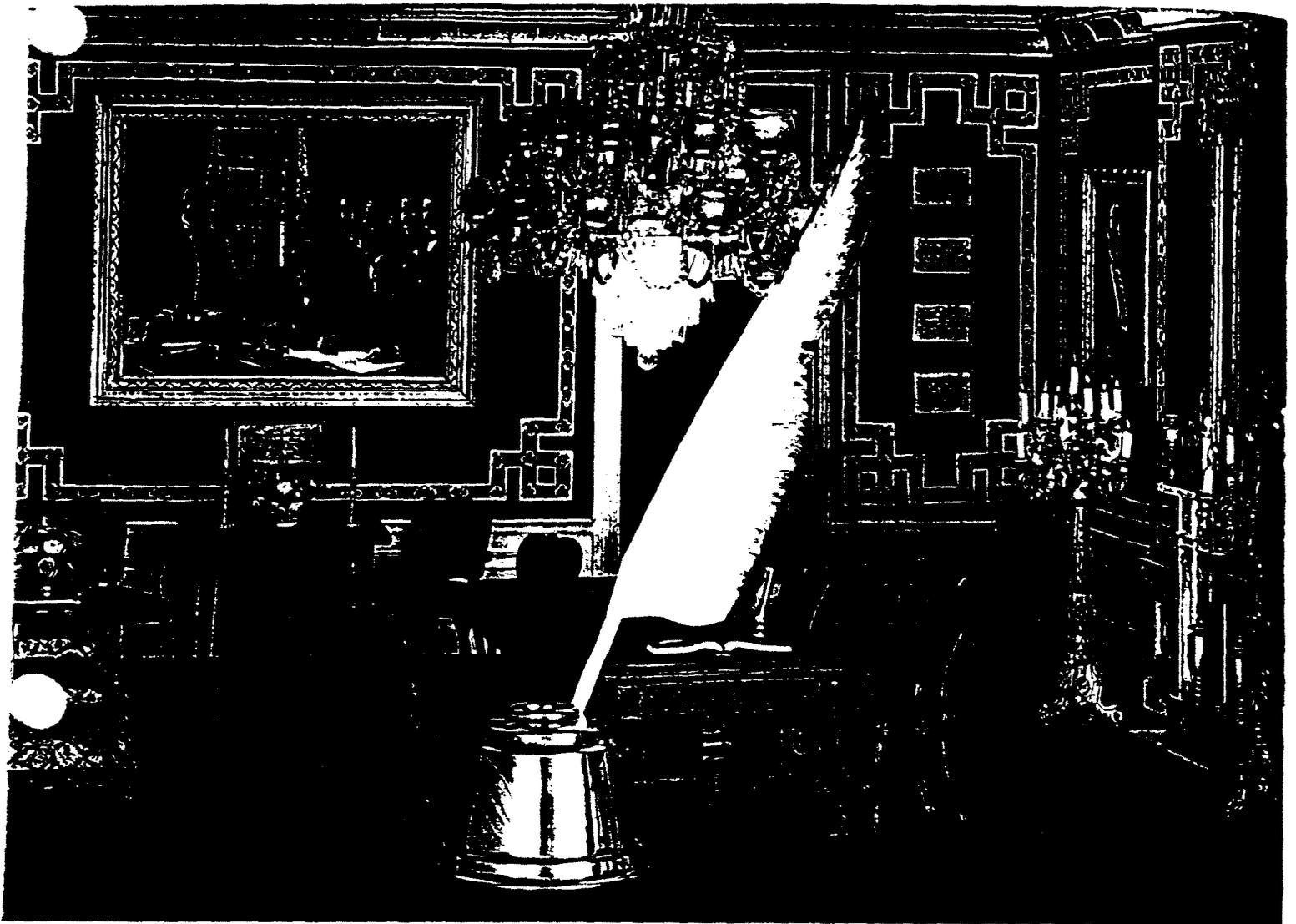
This room has always been central, literally and figuratively, in the lives of the occupants of the White House. For most of the two hundred years of the house's history, it was the boundary between the family's bedrooms and either the president's executive offices (in the nineteenth century) or the official guest rooms. Sometimes the Yellow Room was strictly a room where children and parents would meet nightly to read, sing, play musical instruments, hang Christmas stockings, and relax, as during the administrations of Fillmore, Lincoln, Hayes, Theodore Roosevelt, and Wilson. The Hayeses sang psalms, and Wilson read the Bible aloud. Harding and his friends played poker and drank bootleg liquor.

Sometimes this room would serve as the president's private office, where he could concentrate and work away from the surrounding tumult of the executive offices. Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, FDR, and Harry Truman used it for this purpose. Franklin Roosevelt used it the most, often inviting advisers to stay for cocktails that he would mix himself, followed by dinner served on trays.

Here, the day after FDR's first inauguration, the president met with his cabinet to discuss the financial crisis and later signed the Emergency Banking Act of 1933. On December 7, 1941, at about 1:40 P.M., Roosevelt and Harry Hopkins were having lunch when a telephone call brought the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. On New Year's Day 1942, Roosevelt was joined in this room by Winston Churchill, Maxim Litvinof of the Soviet Union, and T.V. Soong representing China for the signing of an agreement to join with twenty-six countries in a "united nations" against Axis aggression. And the list goes on and on.

The room has also been, during John Adams' administration and then every one since Kennedy's, the parlor where the president and first lady entertain their guests of honor before official state functions. This invitation to "come upstairs" at the White House is one of the rarest and also most cherished. It is the presidential equivalent of inviting someone to your home, because the first floor of the White House is truly a public arena, and it is only upstairs that privacy prevails. The photographs of the Reagans and Gorbachevs drinking cocktails in the Yellow Oval Room are one more reflection of the end of the Cold War. President and Mrs. Clinton will welcome many more heads of former communist bloc countries and, standing by the tall windows, point out the memorial to the author of the Declaration of Independence and the monument to the father of the oldest continuous democracy in the world.





Woodrow Wilson, while working alone in this room during the dark days of World War I, would contemplate the painting on the far wall, "Signing of the Peace Protocol Between Spain and the United States, August 12, 1998" by Théobald Chartran. In it President McKinley stands at the end of the cabinet table that had served as his desk (and now serves as President Clinton's desk in this room). Just a few months earlier, on April 20, 1898, McKinley had regretfully signed the document authorizing military action in what John Hay called the "splendid little war" and which was the United States's first foray into imperialism beyond its shores.

Spectacular in both the full-size and miniature Treaty Rooms

is the chandelier. Approximately 250 hours of handwork went into making this chandelier for the White House replica. John Zweifel had to work with tiny tubing, brass rings, glass beading, and hair-thin copper wires for electrifying the lilliputian chandelier. Every glass shade had to be hand-blown by an expert who could measure his or her breath so that each one was exactly the same petite size as the preceding one.

The pewter inkwell stands just two inches high yet looks colossal the replica of the historic Treaty Room. The full-size quill is eight inches long; the baby quill is $\frac{2}{3}$ inch.

Treaty Room

- *In 1809, it was a large bedroom.*
- *In 1823, James Monroe sat at a desk in this room and wrote his doctrine warning Europe to stay out of the Western Hemisphere.*
- *In 1825, John Quincy Adams made it a sitting room.*
- *From 1849 until the time of Lincoln's assassination it was a reception room for visitors wanting to see the president.*
- *In 1866, Andrew Johnson made it his cabinet room, and it functioned as such until the West Wing was built.*
- *In 1902, Theodore Roosevelt made it into a study. Woodrow Wilson spent most of his time in this room, where he wrote the Fourteen Points, his personal requirements for peace after World War I.*
- *In 1930, it became the "Monroe Drawing Room" after Mrs. Hoover placed reproduction Monroe furniture in it.*
- *In 1936, it was one of the rooms Eleanor Roosevelt used for press conferences.*
- *In 1945, Winston Churchill used it as his personal map room.*
- *In 1952, it was a sitting room.*
- *In 1962, Jacqueline Kennedy made it the Treaty Room (as seen in the photograph).*
- *In 1990, it became the president's office in the residence.*

In 1962, 80 million Americans watched the television tour of the White House and saw President and Mrs. Kennedy sitting in the Treaty Room answering

Charles Collingwood's questions. Many of the questions referred to the changes Mrs. Kennedy was making to the White House. John Kennedy observed that every president who comes to live in the White House receives stimulus from the legendary figures who served in the same capacity. He explained: "Anything which dramatizes the great story of the United States—as I think the White House does—is worthy of the closest attention and respect by Americans who live here and who visit here and who are part of our citizenry. That's why I am glad that Jackie is making the effort she's making."¹⁴

The Treaty Room, recreated to resemble the Cabinet Room during Ulysses S. Grant's term of office and to commemorate peace treaties signed to end or prevent wars, was a Jacqueline Kennedy inspiration and realization. She was particularly proud of her research in tracking down the treaties signed in this room, and procuring facsimiles from the National Archives to hang on the walls.

Interior decorators could hardly believe Mrs. Kennedy was resurrecting Victorian furniture considered terribly unfashionable in 1962, but the first lady was far more interested in historical precedents than design magazine approval. Her passion during the three short years she lived in the White House was to imbue the house with the spirit of past presidents, and the Treaty Room was a fine example of her aspirations. The room is strikingly unified in design, and most of the furnishings originated with past presidents.

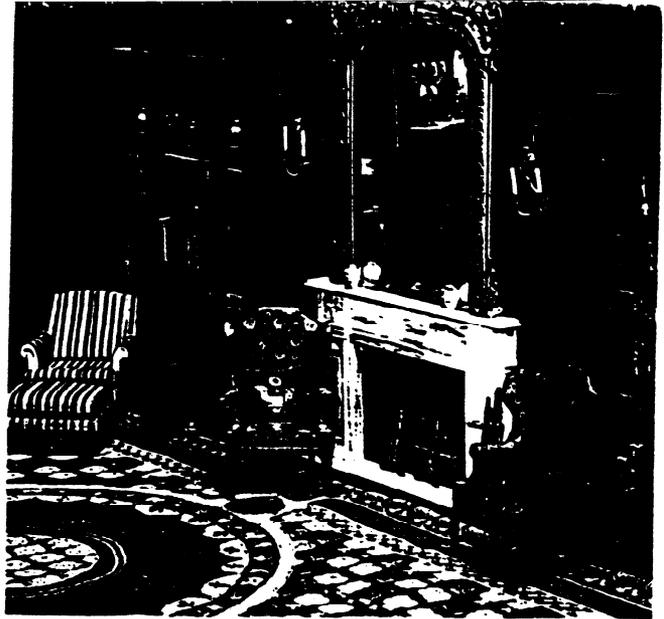
The White House television tour was a Jacqueline Kennedy tour de force with more than a little help from CBS, and she possessed star quality equal to her subject. She knew what to say on camera and how to

say it. A classic example of her tact and ability to find common ground with her audience was recorded in the published transcript of the program. Charles Collingwood asked Mrs. Kennedy what purpose the Treaty Room would serve, and the television audience heard her reply:

Well I do think every room should have a purpose. It can still be a sitting room because that sofa, though you may not believe it, will look nice. But it will serve a definite purpose. My husband has so many meetings up here in this part of the house. All the men who wait to see him now sit in the hall with the baby carriages going by them. They can sit in here and talk while waiting for him.

During the rehearsal period, however, when Mrs. Kennedy was asked why she was refurnishing the room, she replied, "It's really to get the Cabinet out of the living room."

Many presidents have used the old cabinet table that was the focal point of Mrs. Kennedy's restoration for the signing of peace treaties. William McKinley watched as the peace treaty ending the Spanish-American War was signed in August 1898; Calvin Coolidge in 1929 put his signature on the ratification of the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact; John Kennedy, in 1963, signed the "Treaty for a Partial Nuclear Test Ban"; Richard Nixon, in 1972, signed the "Treaty of the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems"; in 1979 the table was taken outdoors for the momentous signing of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty by Menachem Begin, Anwar el-Sadat, and Jimmy Carter (see document page 193); and on a brilliant, sunny day in September 1993, the world witnessed not only the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty on the cherished cabinet table, but also the handshake between Yitzak Rabin and Yasir Arafat that took place alongside that American heirloom.



The photograph above shows part of the former Treaty Room as it appears in the Clinton White House (except for the rug, which is not correct). The president uses the room as an office and the historic cabinet table (opposite page) as his desk. A child of the sixties, the president favors strong colors, but no one quite understands why the Clintons, whose love of American history spans the entire 200-year history of the house, have allowed a prevalence of Victoriana to dominate newly refurnished White House rooms. Clinton has kept the Chartan treaty painting (see page 72) and added ones of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. Scattered throughout the room are the president's favorite photographs and mementos. The president's books flank the fireplace in bookcases built in situ by White House carpenters (see Carpenters' Shop, p.190) because they were too large to fit through the doorways. The overall effect resulting from the choice of fabrics, colors, lamps, and upholstered furniture is a reflection of the judgment of Little Rock interior decorator Kaki Hockersmith.

Mrs. Clinton, discussing the changes she is making to the White House, stated in an interview published in *Historic Preservation* (November–December 1993) that "preservation and restoration—not redecoration" is what she and her husband hope to achieve. "We're interested in enhancing the house and the furnishings within it . . . as a means of furthering the historical mission of the house." As President Clinton enjoys inviting certain guests and foreign dignitaries to his office in the residence, it, like other rooms, "should depict the quality and the importance of the White House as a living museum," asserts the first lady.

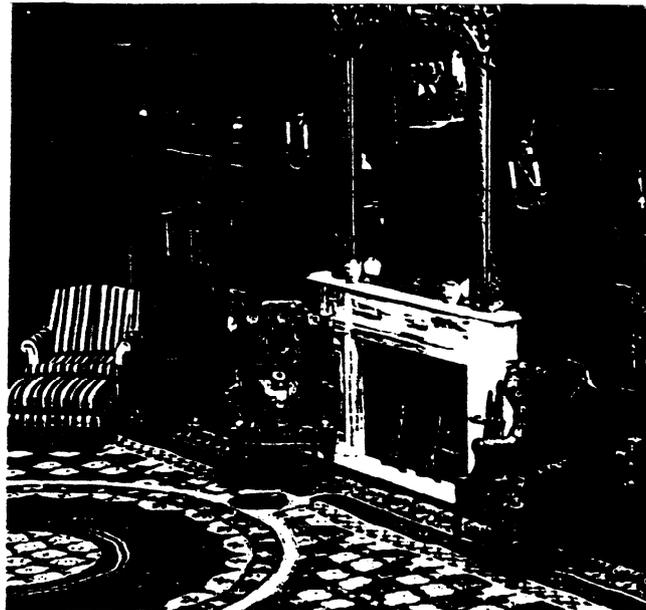
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Charles McKim, President and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt's architect and interior designer, wanted in 1902 to rid the White House of all the Victorian furniture. Edith Roosevelt insisted that certain pieces be kept, including the majestic carved rosewood bed now in the Lincoln Bedroom. Teddy Roosevelt subsequently enjoyed many restful nights in it; Woodrow Wilson, we assume, spent many restless nights worrying about World War I; and Calvin Coolidge remained silent on the subject of how he slept in the imposing Lincoln Bed. Had the architect instead of the first lady had his way, one of the most famous pieces of furniture in the White House might have been lost forever.

The elaborately carved Victorian table was also part of the furniture purchased by Mary Todd Lincoln from William and George Carryl of Philadelphia in 1861. In 1860, the prince of Wales stayed overnight in the "best guest room" in the James Buchanan White House, a room described by Mrs. Lincoln's cousin as "most shabby." The bed and the table reflect Mary Todd Lincoln's idea of appropriate furniture for a guest bedroom. In 1970, another prince of Wales, Prince Charles, slept in the bed that came to the White House as a result of his ancestor's brief visit.

The cream-colored silk sofa and matching chairs, believed to have been used in the White House during Lincoln's administration, were discovered in England and given to the White House in 1954. The "slipper" chair is upholstered in yellow and green William Morris fabric provided by a citizen who wanted to help Mrs. Kennedy with the restoration of the Lincoln Room.

The rocking chair (right foreground) is similar to the chair Lincoln used in the box at Ford's Theatre the night of his assassination. In front of the walnut bureau with full-length mirror, bought by Mary Lincoln, one nineteenth-century White House guest did her "pompadour every morning."

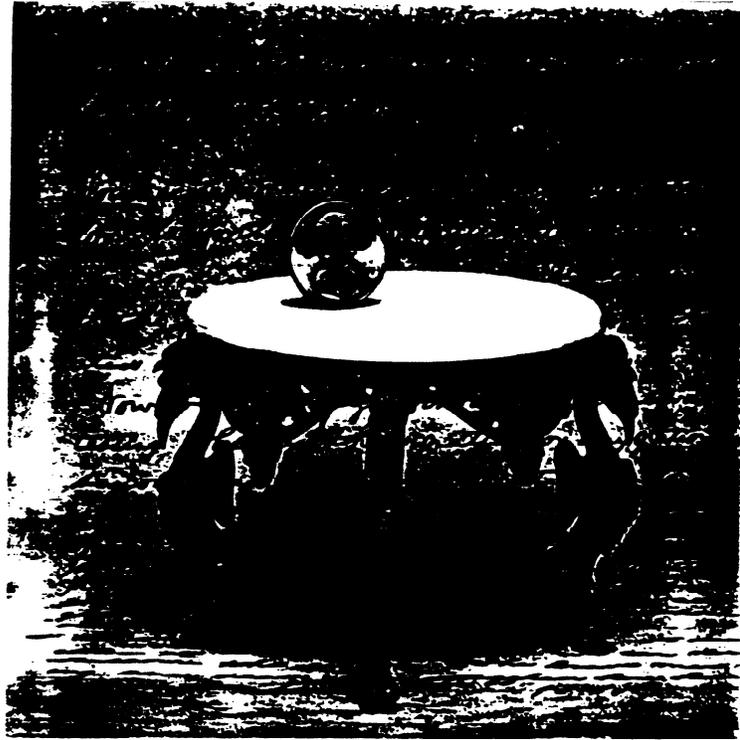
Visitors staying the night make certain to sit at the desk on the left. This has been authenticated as the desk Lincoln used at the "summer White House," a few miles northeast of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. The chairs at the desk and along the north wall were in Lincoln's cabinet room. The tables flanking the bed were purchased by President Jackson, whose portrait, seen to the left of the bed, hung in the exact spot when this room was Lincoln's office (see pages 108-11).

Lincoln Bedroom

The towering figure in the history of the White House was Abraham Lincoln. Theodore Roosevelt spoke for every chief executive when he said: "I think of Lincoln, shambling, homely, with his strong, sad, deeply-furrowed face, all the time. I see him in the different rooms and in the halls." The Lincoln Bedroom, which was the sixteenth president's office and cabinet room (see pages 108–11), is the only room in the White House named after and honoring a past president. Jacqueline Kennedy commented:

Sometimes I used to stop and think about it all. I wondered, "How are we going to live as a family in this enormous place?" I would go and sit in the Lincoln Room. It was the one room in the White House with a link to the past. It gave me great comfort. I love the Lincoln Room. Even though it isn't really Lincoln's bedroom, it has his things in it. When you see that great bed, it looks like a cathedral. To touch something I knew he had touched was a real link with him. The kind of peace I felt in that room was what you feel when going to church. I used to sit in the Lincoln Room and I could really feel its strength. I'd sort of be talking with him. Jefferson is the President with whom I have the most affinity. But Lincoln is the one I love.¹⁵

A plaque on the mantelpiece reads: "In this room Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 whereby four million slaves were given their freedom and slavery forever prohibited in these United States." This was an act of great personal courage and historic consequence. Even without the furniture, presidents entering the room feel the power of the past and the necessity of just leadership in the future.



The table stands less than 2 1/2 inches high, but Jack Zweifel, John and Jan's eldest son, carved all the fine details found in the original piece. Storks support the marble surface, grapes hang down from the circular top, and the legs brace a bird's nest underneath. The rosewood table is the finest example of woodcarving in the White House replica. It took approximately 160 hours to carve and many hours to sand and stain. The Gettysburg Address, seen in facsimile in the background, is traditionally displayed in the Lincoln Bedroom in the form of a holographic copy.

Lincoln never slept in the 9-foot-long, 6-foot-wide bed that carries his name, but by its side he wept uncontrollably at the sight of his small son Willie, lost forever in its folds, dead at the age of eleven. Three years later, in 1865, the man who pleaded for "malice toward none; with charity for all" was embalmed at the foot of the big bed, shot by an assassin's bullet.

For many years, this room has been reserved for guests. FDR insisted that his close adviser Harry Hopkins and his new bride even live in the Lincoln suite (bedroom and sitting room), and had it repainted for them. Harry Truman, a passionate devotee of American history, decided to pull together furniture from Lincoln's time and place it here.

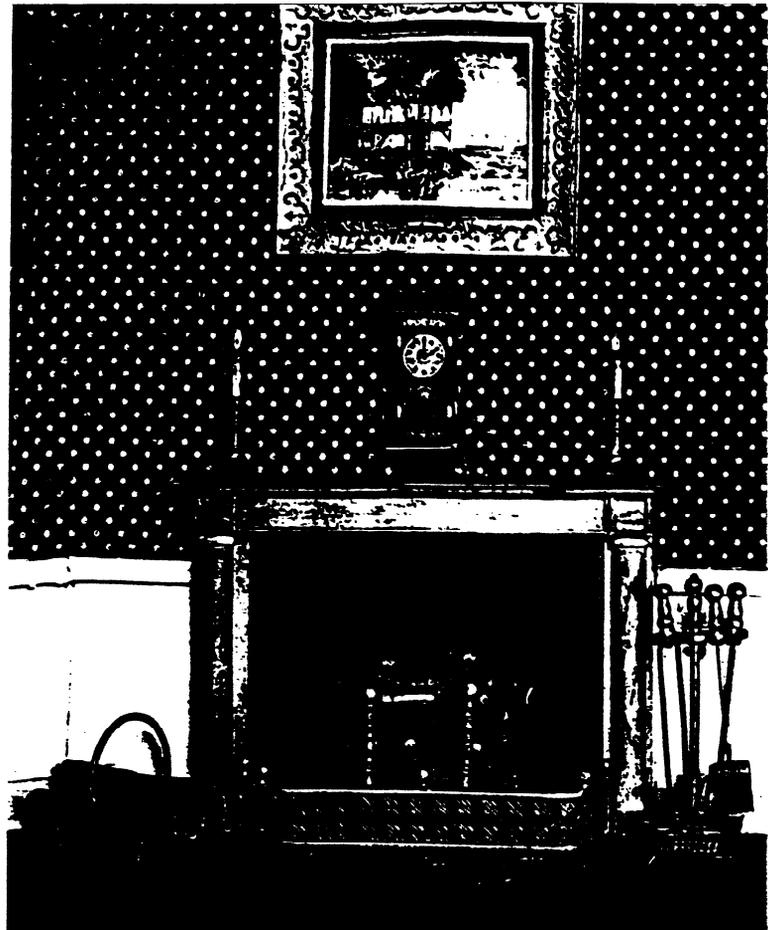


Lincoln Sitting Room

Located in the southeast corner of the mansion, this small room's moment of glory came during the McKinley administration and the Spanish-American War. The site of the president's "War Room," frequently referred to in histories of the war, is rarely specifically situated. But it was this small space that became, as William Seale says, "the lifeline of war communications . . . removing it from its traditional place in the War Department." In 1901, over the same telegraph lines, came the news that McKinley had been shot by an assassin while visiting the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo. Colonel Crook, who had served as executive clerk at the White House since the early 1860s, remembered thinking as he read the telegram, "Good God! First Lincoln—then Garfield—and now McKinley!"

For the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the Lincoln Sitting Room was simply empty. When Charles Dickens visited the White House in the 1840s, it was Tyler's "unimpressive" office. Later, it was generally occupied by the president's private secretary and had the luxury of a water closet at the north end, contributing to its irregular shape. The room became the telegraph office during the administration of Rutherford B. Hayes. After the executive offices were moved out of the mansion in 1902, it was used by the first family themselves or as part of one of the principal guest suites in the house.

Richard Nixon read and listened to music here. He always liked a fire in the fireplace, even in summer, and, according to his daughter Tricia, had the air conditioning turned up to compensate for his idiosyncratic habit. John Zweifel included in his rendering of this room the cigar burns in the carpet that Nixon inadvertently caused.



Visitors to the White House replica often ask themselves, "What makes it look so real?" The answer lies in the thousands of little details. In this small room of the replica, there is a "fire" in the fireplace, and it flickers. The logs are perfectly scaled; even the knots are in proportion. All the necessary tools are there to maintain the fire, and the andirons have been perfectly shaped to fit the space. The mantel is a carved copy of the original. The picture frame and the wainscoting are built up from thin pieces of wood to look like the real thing. There is a copy of the painting *Pavilion at Gloucester* by William Glackens. The electrified candles burn, and although the copy of the French Empire clock on the mantel does not tick, other clocks in the White House replica do.

The decor dates from the Reagan administration. The desk on the right was made by James Hoban, the original architect of the White House. The four rosewood chairs were purchased by Mary Todd Lincoln. The plaster cast sculpture titled *Neighboring Pews* was created by John Rogers, the most popular sculptor in America between 1860 and 1895.

Queen's Bedroom and Sitting Room

Ike Hoover, who worked for ten presidents, described Will Rogers' visit to the Coolidge White House:

Mr. Rogers had been assigned to what is known as the pink [Queen's] guest suite, in the extreme north-east corner of the bedroom floor. It consists of a large room with a four-poster bed, a small dressing-room, which also has a single brass bed in it, and a private bath. He was escorted halfway down the hall by the President and his room pointed out to him. A doorman was summoned to have one last word with Mr. Rogers and learn if there was anything that could be done for him before he retired.

Upon entering the room, Mr. Rogers seemed rather hesitant about occupying the large four-poster bed that had been prepared for him. Turning to the doorman, he inquired if he had to sleep there. He was told of the small bed in the dressing-room and chose that in preference to the large one. The man turned down these covers and left Mr. Rogers with his own thoughts, to spend the night in the White House with all the thrills he afterwards described.¹⁶

Truman's mother couldn't see herself in this big, beautiful guest room (originally called the Rose Bedroom) either, declaring she would rather sleep on the floor. The bed was too high, the decor too fussy, she declared, and like the earthy humorist, she slept in the small sitting room. The entertainer Sammy Davis Jr., however, when he spent the night at the White House, turned down the chance to sleep in the famed Lincoln Bedroom in favor of the Queen's Bedroom. He later joked, "I thought to myself, now I don't want [Lincoln] coming in here talking about 'I freed them, but I sure didn't mean for them to sleep in my bed.'"

The White House needed a sumptuous bedroom. Before Blair House, located across the street, became the official presidential guest house, the White House did have many overnight visitors with singularly imperious or peculiar ways. Winston Churchill and Madame Chiang Kai-shek during the war years were two of the most demanding. And royalty never fits smoothly into a household labeled the "first house of democracy." It is known that the White House staff were often disconcerted by the manner in which certain supercilious guests ordered them about. Whether "Mr. Brown" (alias for V. M. Molotov, Soviet minister for foreign affairs, who slept in the Rose Bedroom in 1942) addressed them as "comrade" has gone unrecorded. What *has* been recorded are the findings of the valet who unpacked Molotov's suitcase: black bread, sausages, and a revolver.

The Rose Bedroom was renamed the Queen's Bedroom by Jacqueline Kennedy in honor of the royal guests who had occupied it. Among these were Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain in 1942, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands in 1942, Queen Julianna of the Netherlands in 1952, Queen Frederika of Greece in 1953, and Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain in 1957.

In the days of Buchanan and Lincoln, the president's private secretaries lived in this bedroom, with twenty-four-hour dedication to the job expected. John Hay and John G. Nicolay shared the room in the 1860s. By the time of Andrew Johnson's presidency, his private secretary was moved to the corner room (today's Queen's Sitting Room), and the larger space became an office occupied by six clerks. When executive offices were finally built adjoining the man-

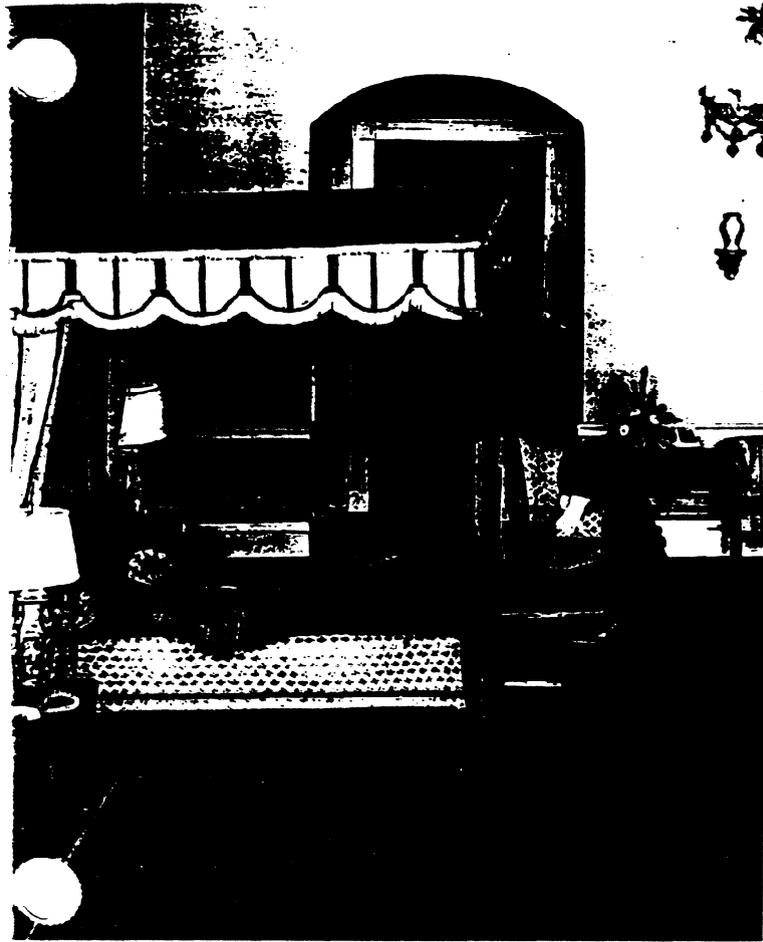


The Queen's Bedroom overlooks Lafayette Park to the north of the White House. The four-poster bed is thought to have belonged to Andrew Jackson; it came from the Hermitage, his home in Tennessee. The Federal sofa has scrolled arms and floral decorations on the top rail. The carved wood mantel on the west wall dates from the years 1820–30 and was removed from a Philadelphia house built in 1792. The English looking glass over the mantel with an eighteenth-century floral painting framed with it was presented to the White House by Princess (now Queen) Elizabeth on behalf of her father, King George, when she and Prince Philip visited Washington in 1951. The princess remarked that it was the king's "hope, and mine, that [the mirror] will remain here, as a mark of our friendship, so long as the White House shall stand."

The Queen's Bedroom has traditionally been given to female guests, as the Lincoln Bedroom was considered the more masculine. Female portraits, too, dominate the paintings in the room.

One of the most beautiful is of the actress Fanny Kemble (seen above the sofa). The artist, Thomas Sully, was the son of English actors who emigrated to America in 1792. Fanny Kemble also arrived in America from England with her actor father in 1832 and soon won the hearts of American audiences.

The actress was presented to Andrew Jackson at the White House in 1833, the year she married and gave up the stage. Vehemently opposed to the slavery she witnessed on her husband's Georgia plantation, she divorced him in 1849. She began to give public readings that became legendary. Longfellow was enraptured: "How our hearts glowed and trembled / as she read . . ." She also wrote *Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation*, published in England in 1863, hoping to encourage a public outcry against slavery. Her nephew later married President Ulysses Grant's daughter Nellie in the Blue Room. Fanny is a favorite of first families and an inspiring companion while staying overnight at the White House.



sion during Teddy Roosevelt's tenure, the rows of desks that had filled this room for so many years were placed in a large room at the west end of the West Wing. This room then became the Rose Bedroom and the site of Alice Roosevelt Longworth's childhood appendectomy.

Today, the Queen's Bedroom and Lincoln Bedroom accommodate personal friends and family of the president and first lady who are invited to spend the night at the best address in the country.

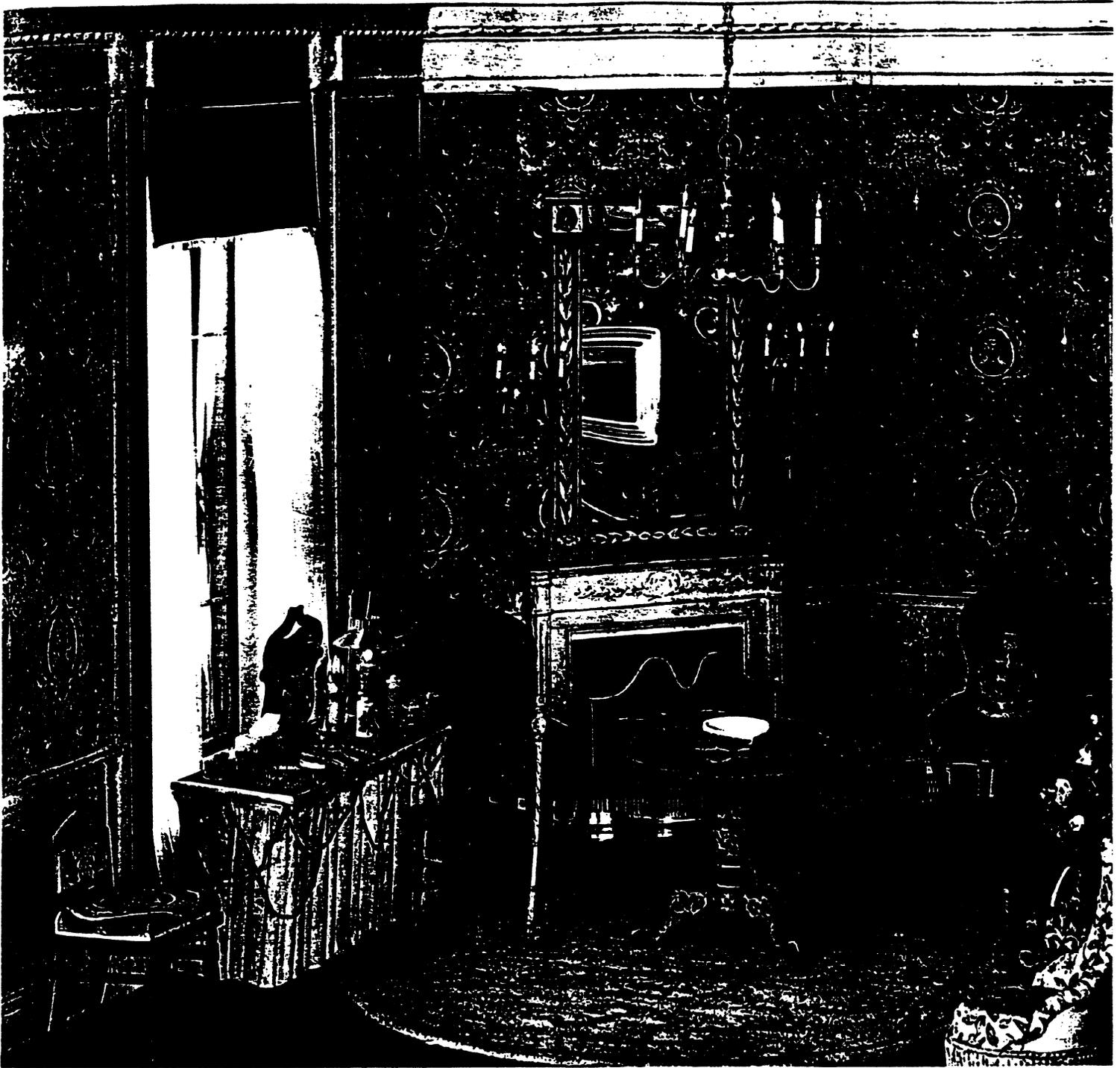
Sir Winston Churchill spent a total of forty-two frenetic days at the White House, including nearly a month's stay shortly after Pearl Harbor. When he arrived, with an aide, secretary, two Scotland Yard men, and a valet, he virtually took over. Everyone in his entourage needed to sleep in close proximity to Churchill and consequently, because the house is not as large as many an English manor, near Roosevelt. Churchill occupied the Queen's Suite, opposite Harry Hopkins' room and down the corridor from the Roosevelts.

Stories of Churchill at the White House abound. Although there is no evidence that Eleanor bumped into him stark naked one night, David Eisenhower thought the story was worth investigating; he concluded, after conducting various interviews, that it would have been impossible. Winston Churchill II reported that his grandfather always slept in a vest (undershirt), nothing more, nothing less.

Legend has it that Franklin did get to see all of the prime minister. As the story goes, Churchill was dictating in his bath, and continued to dictate while walking around his room in a towel and even after the towel fell to the floor. It was then that Roosevelt entered the room and was greeted with the famous declaration: "The prime minister of Great Britain has nothing to hide from the president of the United States." But when Robert Sherwood, the playwright, author, and onetime speechwriter for FDR, asked Churchill if the story was true, the great statesman replied that it was not. He maintained that he always had his towel around his imposing belly.

Churchill stayed up nightly talking to the president until about 2:00 A.M. Roosevelt would attempt to put in normal working days, but Churchill, according to contemporary reports, spent a large part of the day "hurling himself violently in and out of bed, bathing at unsuitable moments and rushing up and down corridors in his dressing gown." If there hadn't been a war to win, Eleanor would have kicked him out. The cigar on the bed is a "Super Churchill," placed here for scale and not to suggest that the prime minister was careless about where he left his smoldering cigars.

The Architectural Digest (December 1981) described the Queen's Sitting Room as "evoking a stately yet festive tone." French fabric with a neoclassical medallion design was installed during the Kennedy administration. A draped dressing table is festooned with tasseled cord. The crown and scepter are just for fun, reminding the viewer that the White House replica descends from a long line of magnificent miniatures, including Queen Mary's Dolls' House at Windsor Castle.



1671



Movie Theater in East Colonnade



In July 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the White House cloakroom, located in the east colonnade, converted into a movie theater. From that time on, the White House has had no permanent coatroom, but every first family would probably agree that having a personal movie theater is better. In any case, the space still serves as the temporary coatroom.

As early as 1933, Roosevelt was receiving newsreel footage of important presidential activities. The president also was sent copies of films made by government agencies and, once the war began, many of the propaganda films. Family and friends have probably used the theater far more than the president, especially since the White House also has always had access to feature films.

Margaret Truman was delighted to learn that she could ask for a viewing of any Hollywood movie, new or old, at any time she desired. It is reported that she saw her favorite, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, sixteen times. Mamie Eisenhower, like many American women in the 1950s, enjoyed watching a movie on a Saturday afternoon. She was particularly fond of sharing the sixty-five-seat theater with her young grandchildren. Her husband, too, watched many movies there. Presidents Carter and Reagan normally waited until they were resting at Camp David to savor Hollywood's latest offerings. President Clinton's "favorite cultural activity," noted the *New York Times* on March 23, 1994, "seems to be showing movies at the White House."