

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

WHITE HOUSE

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: White House

Other Name/Site Number:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Not for publication:

City/Town: Washington

Vicinity:

State: District of Columbia

County: District of Columbia

Code: 001

Zip Code: 20500

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: ___

Public-Local: ___

Public-State: ___

Public-Federal: X

Object: ___

Category of Property

Building(s): X

District: ___

Site: ___

Structure: ___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

___ buildings

___ sites

___ structures

___ objects

___ Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register:

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic
Government

Sub: Single Dwelling
Executive Office

Current: Domestic
Government

Sub: Single Dwelling
Executive Office



7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Classical

MATERIALS:

Foundation:

Walls: light grey sandstone from Aquia Creek, Virginia; Seneca Sandstone from Maryland (for portico's)

Roof:

Other:

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The White House was designed by architect James Hoban and has been the residence of the President of the United States since the administration of John Adams. The cornerstone of the building was laid on October 13, 1792, making the White House the first public building in the new capitol to be erected in Washington, D.C. It has also served as the Executive Office.

The White House is located on Pennsylvania Avenue in the heart of downtown Washington, D.C. The property is bounded by the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue on the north and by the inner side of Executive Avenue on the east, south, and west. The property is comprised of 18.07 acres.

The exterior of the building is classical design, modeled after Leinster House in James Hoban's native Dublin. When first completed, the White House consisted of only the center portion, which was burned by the British during the burning of Washington in 1814. Hoban returned to rebuild the house and President James Monroe moved in by the fall of 1817. By 1829, both the north portico and the south porch were completed, based on a design by Benjamin Latrobe thus bringing the White House profile to its current state.

In 1902, architect Charles McKim's recommendations increased the presidential living space and created the West Wing (a term that would not come into existence until the 1930s) for the President's office and staff, a new east wing was completed by the 1930s. In the 1950s, under President Truman's administration, a major renovation was completed where the interior of the White House was renovated.

The interior space of the White House has changed over time to accommodate each administration's tastes and styles. In general, the building is three-stories high with various rooms devoted to diplomatic, political, residential, and governmental functions.

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Considered to be the most important residence in the United States, the White House has been the home of every president since the administration of John Adams in 1800. The cornerstone of the White House, the first public building to be erected in Washington, D.C., was laid on October 13, 1792. The design of the house is the work of architect James Hoban whose classic design was inspired by the Leinster House in his native city of Dublin.

With certain minor changes and additions, the exterior of the house remains basically the same as when it was completed in 1800. The interior, however, has been changed several times throughout the years, the latest occurring in 1949-1952 during the administration of Harry S Truman when a complete renovation took place. Nevertheless, the historic floor plan has always been retained.

Constructed from light grey sandstone from Aquia Creek, Virginia, the house was painted white after the structure was burned by the British during the attack on Washington, August 24, 1814. Today, the White House stands as the physical symbol of the honor and dignity that signifies the highest office in the land. The White House is located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW in Washington, D.C.

The property falls under Criterion 1 because of its role in the establishment of the nation's capital and for its role during the British invasion of Washington in 1814. Additionally, the White House is representative of the shifts in national culture and ideals as each administration added its own imprint to the interior spaces of the building.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cammerer, H. P. *Washington, the National Capitol*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1932.

National Park Service, National Capitol Parks, Washington, DC, White House files.

Singleton, Esther. *The Story of the White House*. 2 Vols. New York: McClure, 1907.

White House Historical Society. <http://www.whitehousehistory.org>.

Report and Studies:

Morris, Edwin B. *Reports on the Commission on the Renovations of the Executive Mansion*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1952.

McClure, Stanley, W. "The White House," Historic American Buildings Survey Report. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1953.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 Previously Listed in the National Register.
 Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
 Designated a National Historic Landmark.
 Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # DC 37A, DC 37B
 Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local Government
 University
 Other (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 18.07 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	18	385355	770218
		385355	770208

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385343 770208

385343 770218

Verbal Boundary Description:

The property is bounded by the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue on the north and by the inner side of Executive Avenue on the east, south, and west. The property is comprised of 18.07 acres.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses the land historically associated with the White House.

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

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DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
December 19, 1960