








WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

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THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Calligrapher

The Calligrapher's Office creates the beautiful handwriting and artistic designs found on invitations, menus, and place cards at formal White House events.

They also keep track of the history of social etiquette, or formal rules for behavior, at the White House over time.

Photo Credit: White House Historical Association












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THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Adrian Tolley

President Wilson to President Eisenhower 1915-1960



**There are no known images of Adrian Tolley, but it is likely that this Roosevelt-era invitation may be his own penmanship. Do you think it could be his?*
Photo Credit: Lyman Briggs Collection MSU Archives and Historical Collections

Adrian Barclay Tolley was born in Converse, Indiana, in 1893. He began working as a calligrapher for the White House in 1915 to help prepare for President Woodrow Wilson's marriage to Edith Bolling Galt.

From 1915 to 1940, Tolley was employed by several different government offices but worked with the White House to address invitations for events using his expert penmanship. In 1940, the United States Census listed Adrian as the chief of the White House Social Bureau.

In 1960, Tolley retired from his position. He died of pneumonia on May 25, 1966.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Butler

The age-old role of butler encompasses many responsibilities and has also been historically held by Black men. Butlers handle personal hospitality requests, all meal service – from small family events to State Dinners – as well as other comforts needed by the first family.

The head butler is called the "maître d'hôtel," a French expression meaning "master of the house."



Photo Credit: White House Historical Association










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THE WHITE HOUSE
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THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Eugene Allen

President Truman to President Reagan 1952-1986



Photo Credit: Gerald Ford Presidential Library and Museum|NARA

Eugene Allen was born in Scottsville, Virginia in 1919. His first job at the White House was "pantry man". He washed dishes, stocked cabinets, and polished silverware.

Eventually, he was promoted to the highest position of maître d'hôtel. Allen was working on the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. He was overjoyed when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law in 1964. President and Nancy Reagan invited Allen and his wife Helene to be their personal guests at a State Dinner in 1986. Over the course of his career, he “shook the hand of all the Presidents” he worked for.

Allen retired in 1986 after more than 30 years at the White House. Years later, he was a VIP guest to the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. Allen died in 2010 at the age of 90.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Chef

The job of White House chef is one of the longest-standing roles within the White House. In the early years of the Executive Mansion, the kitchen often relied on enslaved individuals–particularly enslaved Black women–to fulfill the role.

Today's chefs are responsible for the culinary needs of the president, first family, and guests, creating delicious meals and working across multiple spaces. As kitchen technology advanced, the need for physical labor was reduced, and, as a result, the position increasingly favored individuals with artistic skills and culinary training.

Photo Credit: White House Historical Association.












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HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Edith Hern Fossett

President Jefferson 1802-1809



This likeness of Edith Hern Fossett, of whom no photos exist, was created by Makematic for Untold History, a project of the Driving Force Institute for Public Engagement.

Edith (Edy) Hern Fossett was born into slavery in 1787 at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's plantation. After Jefferson was elected president, he brought Edith and two other young women, Ursula Granger Hughes and Frances Gillette Hern, to the White House to train as cooks with his French chef. She was fifteen years old and married to Joseph Fossett, an enslaved blacksmith who remained at Monticello. She gave birth to at least three of their children at the White House.

In 1809, when Jefferson's presidency ended, Fossett returned to Monticello, where she served as head cook. Senator Daniel Webster described her cooking as "half Virginian, half French style, in good taste and abundance." After Jefferson died in 1826, Edith's husband Joseph was one of the few individuals granted freedom in his will. Edith and their ten children remained enslaved. Eventually, Joseph saved enough money to free Edith and many of their children and grandchildren. They settled in the free state of Ohio. Edith died, a free woman at last, in 1854.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE



Doctor

Did you know that there's a doctor's office in the White House? The White House Medical Unit works closely with the president's staff and Secret Service to ensure that the president has access to top-notch medical care while traveling or at home. The director of the unit is officially called the "Physician to the President." While many White House staff members work across different presidencies, the Physician to the President is often personally chosen by each president.



Photo Credit: Barack Obama Presidential Library and Museum|NARA










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HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE



Eleanor "Connie" Mariano

President Clinton to President G. W. Bush 1992-2001



Photo Credit: U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Eleanor "Connie" Mariano was born in 1955 on a U.S. naval base in the Philippines; later, she followed in her father's footsteps and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. She trained as a doctor, later becoming the first woman to serve as Physician to the President in the White House Military Office.

From 1992-2001, she cared for presidents, their families, and members of the White House staff. As the primary caretaker for the commander in chief, Mariano traveled with the president and worked long hours at the White House, prepared to give emergency care at a moment's notice. In 2000, President Bill Clinton presented Mariano with shoulder boards in the State Dining Room, promoting her to the rank of rear admiral.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE



Doorkeeper

Throughout the 1800s, White House doorkeepers were responsible not only for greeting arriving visitors but receiving deliveries and directing staff like maids and footmen. Many were former police officers who were also expected to guard the president from threats arriving at the gates of the White House.



Photo Credit: White House Collection/White House Historical Association










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HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE



Arthur Simmons

President Lincoln to Present T. Roosevelt
(Break from 1888-1892)

ca. 1871-1905



Photo Credit: White House Historical Association

Arthur Simmons was born into slavery in North Carolina, moved to Washington, D.C. during the Civil War, and started working at the White House as a general handyman just a few months before President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Eventually, President Rutherford B. Hayes promoted him to the position of doorkeeper for the Secretary to the President.

As doorkeeper, Simmons got to know the president's visitors. He became an excellent judge of character, frequently turning away a man named Charles Guiteau, who later shot President James Garfield at a railroad station.

Simmons served under ten presidents, but his job was not always secure. In 1888, President Benjamin Harrison transferred Simmons to the Treasury Department. Four years later President Grover Cleveland restored him to his old post, a favor Simmons never forgot. He remained White House doorkeeper until 1905, forty years after he first arrived at the White House.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Electrician

Electricity was first installed in the White House in 1891. President Benjamin Harrison and First Lady Caroline Harrison were scared of the new technology and made White House staff turn lights on and off for them! Since then, White House electricians have been responsible for making sure the lights stay lit and the power stays on.



Photo Credit: White House Historical Association










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Traphes Bryant

President Truman to President Nixon 1948-1972



Photo Credit: John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum|NARA

Traphes Bryant worked as a White House electrician with the General Services Administration (GSA) for many years. He was the electrician on duty from 3:30pm to 11:30pm, in case there were late-night emergencies with elevators or lighting. He also reported carrying lighting for the White House photographers. In addition to his duties for the GSA, he also served as the unofficial dog wrangler for the first families! He took care of the Kennedys' dogs, including Pushinka and her puppies, reporting back to the president about the puppies' activities and well-being.

After President Kennedy's assassination, Bryant continued to look after first family pups, including the many Nixon family pets. In 1975, after his retirement, Bryant published a book, *Dog Days at the White House*, about his experience being a White House canine keeper.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Engineer

Engineers and tradespeople have been present since the construction of the White House. Today, these staff are tasked with maintaining HVAC and plumbing systems, installing and repairing electrical power and lighting, and are called upon to construct and paint pieces for the White House.



Photo Credit: Abbie Rowe, National Park Service










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Brian Rock

President Reagan to President Trump

1988-2018



Photo Credit: William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum/NARA

Brian Rock served as an engineer in the White House from 1988 to 2018. As engineer, his office was located in a basement. Rock supervised the heating and cooling systems of the White House, and monitored the temperature of all rooms in the White House from a computer at his desk. Since the White House is an official museum with many important works of art, it's important to be able to control each room's exact temperatures.

White House engineers are responsible for solving maintenance problems that come up in the White House without disturbing the first family, the work of the president and staff, or members of the public touring the house. During his time in the White House, Rock struck up a particular friendship with the Clinton family's cat, Socks, and would often spend time with her on his lunch break.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Florist

The White House Chief Floral Designer and their staff have a small flower shop in the basement of the White House. Seasonal arrangements of fresh flowers have been a priority in decorating the White House since the 1850s.



Photo Credit: Library of Congress










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Nancy Clarke

President Carter to President Obama 1978-2009



Photo Credit: George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum/NARA

Nancy Clarke began volunteering at the White House in 1978 during Jimmy Carter's presidency. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan hired Clarke full time to join the White House Flower Shop, where she worked for then Chief Floral Designer Dottie Temple. Upon Temple's retirement in 1985, Clarke took over the position.

During her time at the White House, Clarke oversaw countless arrangements for formal events like dinners, receptions, and State Visits. She also brought her sense of artistry to many holiday decorations, including the 2001 doll display here.

She retired from the White House Flower Shop in 2009.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Gardener

Responsibility for the White House Grounds has changed over time, but today the National Park Service takes care of the green spaces outside the White House. Gardeners and groundskeepers maintain flower gardens like the Rose Garden and historic Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, historic trees ceremonially planted by past presidents, and the Kitchen Gardens, where fresh produce for the White House kitchens is grown.



Photo Credit: Matthew D'Agostino for the White House Historical Association










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

John Ousley

President J. Q. Adams to President Pierce

1825-1852



**There are no known images of John Ousley, but this engraving depicts an unknown gardener. Do you think it could be him?*
Photo Credit: White House Historical Association/White House Collection

John Ousley was born in Ireland in 1795. Ousley replaced President James Monroe's gardener, Charles Bizet, in 1825. President John Quincy Adams often wrote about Ousley's gardening expertise in his daily diary and spent many hours learning from the Irishman; in fact, he called Ousley his "living dictionary," as he could always provide the names and information about various plants on the White House Grounds.

Ousley remained in his role for twenty-seven years, impressing several American presidents with his delicious vegetables and extensive knowledge. While working at the White House, Ousley became a U.S. citizen in 1830, and married Caroline Hilbus in 1833. In January 1852, the Office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings informed Mr. Ousley that his services as gardener would "not be required after the end of the present month," and he left the White House. He died five years later.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE



Housekeeper

The White House has always relied on housekeepers and laundry staff to tend to the needs of its residents and their guests. Housekeepers perform many tasks, such as making beds, vacuuming carpets, dusting furniture, and ensuring that the White House always looks its best!



Photo Credit: White House Historical Association










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE



Lillian Rogers Parks

President Hoover to President Eisenhower 1929-1960



Photo Credit: Fleet Publishing

From 1929 to 1960, Lillian Rogers Parks served as a maid and seamstress, or expert dressmaker, at the White House.

Growing up, Lillian often visited the White House with her mother Maggie Rogers. Rogers began working as a maid in March 1909 during President William Howard Taft's administration. Some evenings, Rogers would return to the White House after work to arrange the president's bed linens and turn on lights in the family rooms. Lillian would accompany her during these errands. On one memorable occasion, President Taft discovered Lillian playing in his empty bathtub and found her so delightful he invited her to dinner.

Parks wrote several books about her experiences in the White House, including *My Thirty Years Backstairs at the White House* (1961). In her words, "Living in the White House is like being on the stage. And we, the servants of the White House, are the supporting cast."










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Lady's Maid

Lady's maids are some of the most important roles on the domestic staff. They assist with the first lady's appearance, which includes dressing them, preparing and mending clothing and accessories, and styling their hair. Lady's maids also oversee schedules, travel with the presidential party, and interact with children within the first family.

The role was never formally abolished at the White House; rather, it faded over time due to changes in presidential life, staffing models, and social expectations.

Photo Credit: Peter Waddell for the White House Historical Association












WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Josephine Kneip

President B. Harrison

1889-1893



Photo Credit: Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site

Josephine Kneip was born on February 13, 1857, in Indianapolis, Indiana. In the 1880s, she began working for Benjamin and Caroline Harrison, and when they moved to the White House in 1889, Kneip joined them as the first lady's personal maid and housekeeper.

Her duties included household management, dressing the first lady, and traveling with the family. While in the White House, First Lady Caroline Harrison fell ill with tuberculosis and spent the summer of 1892 in the Adirondack Mountains to recover; Josephine joined her there. Miss Kneip was also at the first lady's bedside when she died on October 25, 1892.

She continued to work at the White House after Mrs. Harrison's passing, primarily as housekeeper, and returned to Indianapolis with Benjamin Harrison at the end of his presidency in 1893. There, she served as his housekeeper for three more years, departing from the household around 1896. She passed away on February 18, 1942.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Secret Service

Throughout history, presidential protection has been provided by a variety of doorkeepers, guards, and policemen. Today, the United States Secret Service protects the president and first family, prevents disturbances at the White House, and along with the chief usher and White House Visitors Office, they manage the flow of visitors to the White House.



Photo Credit: Library of Congress










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Edmund Starling

President Wilson to President F.D. Roosevelt

1914-1943



Photo Credit: Library of Congress

For twenty-nine years, Colonel Edmund W. Starling was the president's shadow. Originally hired at the White House in 1914, Starling rose through the ranks of the U.S. Secret Service, eventually becoming chief in 1935. Starling guarded five presidents during his career. He was a witness to history, accompanying President Woodrow Wilson to Europe during World War I and observing the signing of the Treaty of Versailles that ended the war. He was also a presidential companion, and taught Calvin Coolidge how to fish.

Starling was always a step behind the president, watching out for possible threats in and out of the White House. Across five administrations, Starling kept memoirs of his experiences and eventually published them in a book titled *Starling of the White House*. He retired in 1943 after nearly three decades of service. Starling passed away less than a year later.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Seamstress

Although less common today, White House seamstresses throughout the 1800s and 1900s were responsible for designing, sewing, and repairing clothing for the first lady.



Photo Credit: National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Elizabeth Keckly

President Lincoln 1861-1865



Photo Credit: Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University

Born into slavery in 1818, Elizabeth Hobbs Keckly learned how to sew at the age of three. She used her talent at dressmaking to purchase freedom for herself and her son George in 1855, settling in Washington, D.C. Before the Civil War, perhaps surprisingly, Keckly made dresses for Varina Davis, wife of Jefferson Davis, the eventual president of the Confederacy.

First Lady Mary Lincoln heard of Keckly's work and hired her in 1861 to be her personal dressmaker and seamstress in the White House. The two women soon developed a close friendship. After President Lincoln's assassination, Mrs. Lincoln asked only to see Mrs. Keckly. Keckly also worked with Frederick Douglass to create the Contraband Relief Association, assisting formerly enslaved people living in Washington, D.C. In 1868, Keckly published a memoir called *Behind the Scenes, or, Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House.*










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Steward

White House stewards greeted guests and those with appointments to see the president, directed housekeeping in the White House, and even sometimes were in charge of the president's clothes! In the late 1800s, stewards began to be called ushers. Today, the chief usher of the White House directs the operations of the Executive Mansion and manages all other residence staff.



Photo Credit: White House Collection










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

William Slade

President Lincoln to President A. Johnson 1861-1868



Photo Credit: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

Born free in Virginia, William Slade worked at the Metropolitan Hotel and Treasury Department before being hired as a White House usher in 1861. Slade was second-in-command of household staff, overseeing household tasks, events, and serving as President Lincoln's personal attendant.

Slade became close with the president, often staying late at the White House whenever Lincoln needed someone to talk to. After Lincoln's assassination in 1865, Slade was tasked with preparing Lincoln's body for burial, and received some of the president's personal belongings as a gift from First Lady Mary Lincoln.

Slade became steward of the White House under President Andrew Johnson in 1866. As steward, Slade was responsible for White House maintenance, budgeting, and even the president's personal spending. Unfortunately, his time as White House steward was short. He passed away from heart disease in 1868 at age 53. Many distinguished guests attended his funeral.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE



Usher

While they have historically been called many different names, such as stewards and doorkeepers, ushers oversee daily White House functions and report to the chief usher, who coordinates the planning and scheduling of the entire Executive Residence staff. Hired by the president and first lady, the chief usher is the general manager of the White House, responsible for overseeing administrative, fiscal, and personnel functions, including construction, maintenance, and remodeling.

Photo Credit: White House Historical Association












WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE



J.B. West

President F. D. Roosevelt to President Nixon

1941-1969



Photo Credit: John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum/NARA

Chief usher J. B. West worked at the White House from 1941-1969, serving each first lady from Eleanor Roosevelt to Pat Nixon and writing about his extraordinary experiences in his book *Upstairs at the White House*. As chief usher, West directed the Residence staff of the White House, reporting directly to the president.

During his time in the role, West was an eyewitness to incredible historical and political change. He remembered hearing the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and President Kennedy's assassination, and serving world leaders from Winston Churchill to Nikita Khrushchev. He also witnessed many changes at the White House, including renovations and historic preservation efforts.

West captured the spirit of the role when he wrote, "During all my years of managing the White House…my loyalty was not to any one President but rather to the Presidency and to the institution that is the White House."










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Curator

Since 1801, different government employees have taken care of furnishings at the White House. In 1961, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy hired the first curator - a professional trained to take care of art in a museum setting. Today, this team of trained professionals oversees the White House Collection, which includes over 60,000 portraits, sculptures, and pieces of tableware and furniture.

Photo Credit: Bruce White for the White House Historical Association












WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Lorraine Waxman Pearce

President Kennedy to President L. B. Johnson

1961-1962



Photo Credit: John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum/NARA

In 1961, Jacqueline Kennedy hired Lorraine Waxman Pearce as the first White House curator. As curator, Pearce oversaw White House renovation projects, designed policies to take care of the White House Collection of art and furniture, and wrote the first White House guidebook, *The White House: An Historic Guide.*

One magazine referred to her as “the woman who furnished Camelot" - the media's term for the unfulfilled promise represented by the young Kennedy family. Pearce resigned from her role as curator in September 1962.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Carpenter

Teams of talented carpenters built the White House from 1792-1800. They also are responsible for every expansion and renovation since then. The White House would not be standing without carpenters!



Photo Credit: Harry S. Truman Library and Museum/NARA










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

William R. Eckloff

President Hayes to President Cleveland

1877-1889

**The above range is an estimated time of service*



Photo Credit: Library of Congress

A Washington, D.C. native, carpenter William R. Eckloff was in charge of "the White House tool chest" for four administrations, between presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and Grover Cleveland.

As White House handyman, Eckloff contributed to many important projects, including expanding the White House Conservatory, or greenhouse, requested by First Lady Lucy Hayes and the construction of a "refrigerating plant" that brought fresh, cool air into President James A. Garfield's recovery room after he was shot by Charles Guiteau in 1881.

After leaving the White House, Eckloff worked as a carpenter at the U.S. Capitol Building, walking a mile and half from his farm in Maryland to the Beltsville station every day. There, he continued his connection to the presidents—in fact, he constructed the catafalque, or raised platform, used for President William McKinley's funeral service in the Capitol Rotunda in 1901. William R. Eckloff passed away in 1942.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Plumber

Since running water was first installed in 1833, White House plumbers have made sure that the pipes and faucets in the kitchens, bathrooms, and fire protection systems of the house are kept in tip-top shape.



Photo Credit: Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum/NARA










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Howard "Reds" Arrington

President Truman to President Carter

1946-1979



Photo Credit: William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum[NARA

Born in Roanoke, Virginia in 1927 before moving to Washington, D.C., Howard "Reds" Arrington worked as a White House plumber through seven presidents. After graduating high school, Reds served in the U.S. Navy until joining the White House staff in 1946.

One of his favorite memories as the residence's plumber was President Lyndon B. Johnson's request for higher water pressure in his shower, only for President Richard Nixon to have the powerful water jets removed a few years later. He also recalled wading into the White House fountain to retrieve Eisenhower's golf balls. He retired in 1979 and died in 2007 of pancreatic cancer.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Waiter/ Footman

White House waiters and footmen greet guests at the White House, ride with presidential carriages, and serve courses at formal dinners. Most White House footmen throughout the 1800s and 1900s had experience working in hotels prior to joining White House staff.



Photo Credit: Library of Congress










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Jerry Smith

President Grant to President T. Roosevelt

1873-1903

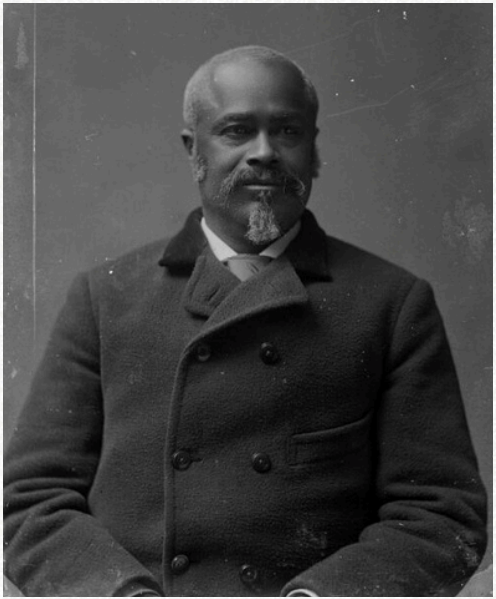


Photo Credit: Library of Congress

Jeremiah “Jerry” Smith was born in Maryland around 1840. He served in the Civil War as a driver and sailor for the Union Army. After the war ended, he moved to Washington, D.C., joining President Ulysses S. Grant's White House staff in 1873. Government documents listed him as a laborer, or all-around workman, but he took on several unofficial roles - including White House duster.

Smith worked at the White House through eight presidencies, becoming a favorite in the press for his ghost stories.

In addition to his dusting duties, Smith raised and lowered the American flag atop the White House at sunrise and sunset. In 1903, he retired from his role at the White House. He passed away at his home on July 25, 1904. Many White House employees attended his funeral, and President Roosevelt sent a floral emblem of the White House to adorn his coffin.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Technology/ Communications

Communication technology in the White House has changed a lot over time. The White House has been a testing ground for many new technologies, as staff have continually sought innovative methods to improve working and living conditions. Inventions like the telephone, radio, television, and social media have changed the way the White House operates and the ways in which the president communicates with the American people.



Photo Credit: Library of Congress










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Louise Hachmeister

President F. D. Roosevelt to President Eisenhower 1933-1953



**Hachmeister is in the back row, second from the right*
Photo Credit: Library of Congress

From 1933 to 1953, the important task of managing the White House switchboard, or telephone control center, rested in the capable hands of Louise "Hackie" Hachmeister. Hachmeister was the first woman to hold the position of Chief Telephone Operator.

She was trusted to communicate with presidents and kings, to gather the Cabinet when news arrived of an attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and to set up international conference calls during World War II. No information ever leaked from her staff.

Under Hachmeister's leadership, the White House switchboard grew from eight official extensions to over 200, handling around 2,000 calls per day with her staff of five operators. In this 1938 photograph, Louise Hachmeister (back row, second from the right) poses with a group of women from the White House staff. Hachmeister continued to oversee the White House telephones until the end of Truman's presidency in 1953.










WHITE HOUSE WORKERS

HISTORY PROJECT

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THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Chauffeur

As travel has advanced, so has presidential transportation! Valets and coachmen traveled with early presidents by carriage or horseback. Today, the United States military is responsible for presidential transportation, which includes the following three modes of transport: Air Force One, Marine One, and an armored limousine made by General Motors, nicknamed the Beast.



Photo Credit: Matthew D'Agostino for the White House Historical Association










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THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Francis Howlett Robinson

President Taft to President F. D. Roosevelt

1910-1940

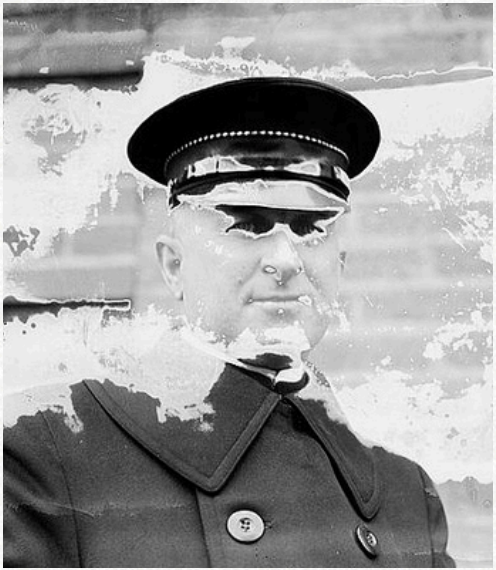


Photo Credit: Library of Congress

Francis Howlett Robinson, or "Robbie," came to the White House with the first automobile in 1910. He was from Massachusetts and was praised for never getting into an accident in over twenty years of White House service. After head chauffeur, or driver, Abel Long fell ill in 1911, Robinson was promoted to the position.

He told newspapers that "Warren G. Harding…used the automobile perhaps more than any other President. Mr. Harding liked to ride fast. So does Mr. Roosevelt when the opportunity presents itself. It was not so with Calvin Coolidge."

Robinson drove presidents to and from Inaugurations, the official ceremonies that swear presidents into office. Robbie was director of the White House Garage when he passed away in 1940.










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Valet/ Personal Assistant

While valets traditionally take care of their employers clothing, presidential valets have also served as personal assistants, messengers, confidants, barbers, bartenders, waiters, public relations agents, and companions. Today, responsibility for this particular role falls to the United States military.



Photo Credit: Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum/NARA










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THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE
A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Manuel "Manolo" Sanchez

President Nixon 1969-1974



Photo Credit: Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum|NARA

Manolo Sanchez was born in Spain, later moved to Cuba, and eventually immigrated to the United States. He earned citizenship in 1968 and began working as valet to President Richard Nixon. While valets traditionally take care of their employer's clothing, presidential valets have also served as assistants, messengers, barbers, waiters, and companions. Nixon was the last president to bring a personal valet to the White House; today, valets are specially selected members of the military assigned to the president or are regular members of the White House residence staff, who may serve more than one presidency.

Sanchez was a dedicated sounding board for the president, with whom he shared a special bond. Manolo was married to Fina Sanchez, who also worked in the White House, serving as a maid to First Lady Pat Nixon. Manolo and Fina worked with electrician Traphes Bryant to care for the many Nixon family pets.