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THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

White House Historical Association Launches White House Workers History Project: A Living Archive of the People Behind the Executive Mansion

Free comprehensive digital history platform brings the lives, contributions, and records of nonpolitical White House workers to life, from 1789 to the present

October 13, 2026 (Washington, D.C.) – The nonprofit, nonpartisan White House Historical Association today launched the [White House Workers History Project](#), an extensive digital history platform featuring thousands of profiles, stories, and archival records documenting the nonpolitical staff members who have worked at the White House and for presidents from 1789 to the present.

The robust project launched on the anniversary of the laying of the White House cornerstone in 1792, a tribute to the generations of men and women whose work has served as the foundation of the Executive Mansion throughout its history. Developed over more than six years, the initiative was created by the David M. Rubenstein National Center for White House History in collaboration with former White House staff members, descendants, presidential sites, historical scholars, and documentary editing projects.

The project currently features Executive Residence staff, including household, Gardens and Grounds, and transportation workers. The platform will be continuously updated as additional research is completed.

“White House history is not only the history of presidents, first ladies, and major events; it is also the history of the people behind the scenes that sustain the Executive Mansion,” said Dr. Matthew Costello, Chief Education Officer at the Association and director of the David M. Rubenstein National Center for White House History. “Through this project, we can recognize the skill, commitment, and contributions of generations of workers—from those who maintained the home and cared for the first family to those who played a role in defining

moments—to continue sharing the vibrant history of the White House for generations to come."

The innovative project reflects the Association's ongoing nonpartisan mission to preserve, share, and expand public access to the history of the White House, as established by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961. By making the platform freely available online, the Association invites the public, researchers, teachers, and students to explore the people and stories behind the Executive Mansion.

"Every profile in the White House Workers History Project illuminates the Executive Mansion from a more personal and inclusive perspective," said Sarah Fling, historian at the White House Historical Association. "These workers came from different backgrounds, held a wide range of roles, and served across changing eras, but their experiences are connected by their work at one of the nation's most historic sites. Their stories add essential depth to our understanding and preservation of White House history."

The engaging platform is designed to support a variety of learning and research interests. With more than 20 countries represented in the project and 42 US states, users can explore over 1,100 worker profiles, interactive birth and death maps, educational resources for teachers and students, photographs, and themed collections, including "The Civil Rights Movement Through the Eyes of Residence Staff" and "Love in the White House." Customizable search and filtering tools allow users to navigate the collection according to their interests.

The project also seeks to engage descendants of White House workers, whose family archives and personal stories can help bring additional histories to light. The Association welcomes descendants and members of the public who may have relevant photographs, documents, letters or other materials to contact the project team at whwhp@whha.org.

Explore the [White House Workers History Project](#) today.

About White House Historical Association

Founded in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, the White House Historical Association is the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization entrusted with preserving and sharing the history of the White House. Supported entirely by private philanthropy and the sale of educational books and products, the Association reaches millions of students, teachers, and lifelong learners through research and scholarship initiatives, public programming, and the authoritative titles published by its independent press. Throughout each presidency, the Association works with the Offices of the First Lady and the White House Curator to acquire and preserve historic objects for the White House Fine and Decorative Arts

Collection. The Association also operates The People's House: A White House Experience, a free, immersive, educational museum in Washington, D.C., which welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit WhiteHouseHistory.org.

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