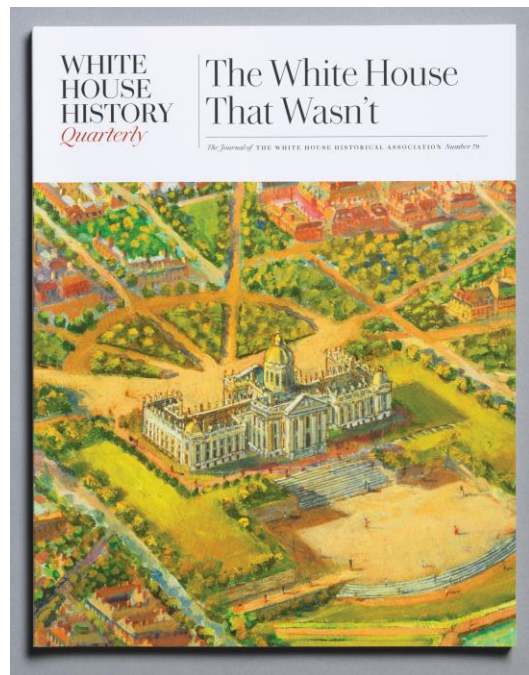


THE WHITE HOUSE  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## NEW ISSUE of *White House History Quarterly* Magazine “The White House That Wasn’t”

November 5, 2025 (Washington, D.C.) – The White House Historical Association has just released a new issue of *White House History Quarterly* examining the “White House That Wasn’t,” ideas and events that almost, might have, or surely didn’t happen. We begin in 1791 when the new Federal City on the banks of the Potomac existed only on paper. If the President’s House had been built exactly as specified by city planner Pierre (“Peter”) Charles L’Enfant in his Plan of the City Intended for the Permanent Seat of the Government of the United States, it would have been at least five times the size it was ultimately built by James Hoban. But what would L’Enfant’s house have looked like? This question and more are explored in the 79th issue of *White House History Quarterly*.



To request a review copy of *White House History Quarterly* #79, or interview the contributors, contact [press@whha.org](mailto:press@whha.org).

Articles in this issue include:

- **FOREWARD: *What Could Have Been*** – Marcia Mallet Anderson
- **WITH BRUSHSTROKES ON CANVAS AN ARTIST REVEALS L’ENFANT’S UNREALIZED PLAN FOR THE PRESIDENT’S HOUSE** – What would L’Enfant’s White House design have looked like? The mystery inspired twenty-first century artist **Peter Waddell** to envision, with brushstrokes on canvas, the President’s House that was never built. A conversation with Waddell about his ambitious panoramic painting, *The Indispensable Plan*, opens this issue.

- **A WHITE HOUSE, BUT NOT ONLY** – The focus on the appearance of the house is continued by architectural historian **Kyle Dugdale** who reminds us that White House is not only white. The colors of the stone beneath the paint, he explains, vary in shade “from a pale tan to a dark rusty tint, streaked with buff, yellow, and red.”
- **PRESIDENT WASHINGTON’S GERMANTOWN WHITE HOUSE: *Philadelphia’s Yellow Fever Pandemic Leads to the Establishment of a Temporary President’s House*** – And not only is the White House not only white, the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, is not the only home and office of the American presidents. Professor **Alan Capps** takes us to a President’s House in Germantown, Pennsylvania, a refuge for President George Washington from Philadelphia’s deadly yellow fever epidemic of 1793 that wasn’t the President’s House for long.
- **PRESIDENTIAL SITES FEATURE: *Scotland’s White House, President Eisenhower, and Culzean Castle*** - Author **Sarah M. G. Mackay** takes us to another President’s House: the top floor of the twelfth-century Culzean Castle. Given to General Dwight D. Eisenhower by the people of Scotland in appreciation for his service as supreme commander of the Allied forces in Europe during World War II, “Scotland’s White House,” provided a place of rest and relaxation for Dwight D. Eisenhower before, during, and after his presidency.
- **NOT MADE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE: *Steinway #500,000*** – There are more than 50,000 objects in the White House fine and decorative arts collection, but many more objects offered, considered, or intended were ultimately never acquired. Former White House Curator **William G. Allman** tells the story an offer declined when Steinway and Sons proposed to give its no. 500,000 custom-designed grand piano to the White House.
- **THE HENRY CLAY GOTHIC REVIVAL BEDROOM SUITE: *Made for a Whig White House That Wasn’t*** – Meanwhile, author **Lauren McGwin** traces the history of a ten-piece Gothic Revival bedroom suite that was never to be used at the White House.
- **THE MADISON WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE THAT WASN’T** – There are many known firsts in White House history, but Professor **John Hutton** reminds us that there could be others as he explores the possibility that the first White House Christmas tree might have been decorated more than seventy years earlier generally believed.
- **THE MYTH OF THE WHITE HOUSE TIGERS: *Martin Van Buren’s Pets That Weren’t*** – **Katie Hatton** explores and discounts the myth that President Martin van Buren received two tiger cubs from Kabul al Said, the sultan of Oman. The fact that

there was never a sultan of Oman named “Kabul al Said,” is just the beginning of Hatton’s argument.

- **WHEN AMERICA WAS WITHOUT A VICE PRESIDENT—AND NO ONE SEEMED TO NOTICE – Frederic J. Frommer** reminds us there were many years when America was without a vice president, and that before the passage of the twenty-fifth amendment detailed the process for the filling of a vice presidential vacancy, the position was vacant for a total of nearly forty years. It is not a subject that has often been mentioned in the Quarterly, perhaps because as Frommer observes, no one seemed to notice.
- **REFELCTIONS: First Lady Jacqueline Keendy’s Unfinished Legacy in White House China – Stewart D. McLaurin** closes the issue with an exploration of what the Kennedy’s State Service may have looked like if was seen to fruition.

This 100-page issue of *White House History Quarterly* retails for \$12.95. To purchase a single issue, visit [shop.whitehousehistory.org](http://shop.whitehousehistory.org).

To subscribe to *White House History Quarterly*, visit [whitehousehistoryjournal.org](http://whitehousehistoryjournal.org).

### **About The White House Historical Association**

First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy envisioned a restored White House that conveyed a sense of history through its decorative and fine arts. She sought to inspire Americans, especially children, to explore and engage with American history and its presidents. In 1961, the nonprofit, nonpartisan White House Historical Association was established to support her vision to preserve and share the Executive Mansion’s legacy for generations to come. Supported entirely by private resources, the Association’s mission is to assist in the preservation of the state and public rooms, fund acquisitions for the White House permanent collection, and educate the public on the history of the White House. Since its founding, the Association has given more than \$115 million to the White House in fulfillment of its mission. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit [WhiteHouseHistory.org](http://WhiteHouseHistory.org).

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