



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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THE PRESIDENT'S GARDEN EXHIBIT OPENS AT WHITE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER

To bring the beauty of the White House gardens to the public and to tell its story, the White House Historical Association announces the opening of *The President's Garden*, at the White House Visitor Center, 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The exhibit will run through September 2, 2003.

The President's Garden captures the magic and beauty of more than 200 years in the life of a living garden. Just as the White House serves as home, official residence, office and museum, so too the garden has been the scene of both historical events and informal gatherings.

Today ancient oaks and giant elms shade ground known to George Washington and his 43 successors. These lawns and gardens have seen administrations come and go, witnessed receptions for kings and queens and the signing of laws and treaties affecting the world. They have heard young couples exchange wedding vows and the joyous laughter of children rolling Easter eggs on White House grass. If trees could talk we would have one more chapter in American history books.

"No garden has ever been so lovingly tended," writes William Seale, author of *The White House Garden*, "nor any garden known so many famous people."

Presidents have loved these gardens. Each has played his part, from early-day gardeners like John Quincy Adams, who actually tilled the garden's soil, and Andrew Jackson whose magnolias are still covered with white blossoms each June, to Theodore Roosevelt, who reluctantly allowed his architects to demolish his cherished conservatory, and John F. Kennedy, who made the private Rose Garden near the Oval Office into an outdoor meeting place that accommodates a thousand spectators.

The 10-panel exhibit incorporates more than 60 historic and contemporary images depicting the garden's story and its history. Panels include: The White House Gardeners and their Trees; The Children's Garden; The Rose Garden; The First Lady's Garden; Commemorative Trees and Relaxing in the Garden. Accompanying the exhibit is *Upon These Grounds: Exploring the White House Garden*, a 30 minute film produced by the White House Historical Association. For information about images please contact hhaskins@whha.org.

The President's Garden was organized by the White House Historical Association, the White House Curator's Office and the Superintendent of Grounds for the White House in cooperation with the National Park Service.

The White House Historical Association, established in 1961, is a non-profit organization whose goal is to enhance public understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the Executive Mansion. Proceeds from the association's trusts, publications and other items are used to fund acquisitions of historic furnishings and artwork for the permanent White House collection, assist in the preservation of the public rooms, and further its educational mission.

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