

**The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “6/24/76 - Smithsonian Gown Presentation” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM  
FROM: SUSAN PORTER  
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-house invitation:

EVENT: Presentation of Gown to the Smithsonian Institution's  
First Ladies' Gown Collection

GROUP: Smithsonian Institution

DATE: Thursday, June 24, 1976

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Smithsonian Institution  
Collection of Dresses of First Ladies' Gowns

CONTACT: Mr. Scott Berthold, Director of Special Projects  
O: 381-6586

COMMENTS: Although Mrs. Ford does not have an Inaugural Gown per se, she is presenting to the Smithsonian, in keeping with the tradition of other First Ladies, a gown for their First Ladies' Gown Collection. This occasion will consist of a brief presentation on the second floor of the Museum of History and Technology at the site of the collection and will be followed by refreshments. The Smithsonian is inviting about 100 people and the event will include invited guests only. Mrs. Ford is presenting a gown she has worn which was designed by Frankie Welch. Margaret Klapthor is the curator of the Smithsonian who has worked very hard on this project. There is no file. Thank you.

c: BF Staff  
Red Cavaney  
William Nicholson  
Terry O'Donnell  
Warren Hendriks  
Rex Scouten  
Staircase



# Frankie Welch of Virginia

305 CAMERON STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

FOR RELEASE JUNE 24, 1976

## MRS. FORD SELECTS FRANKIE WELCH GOWN FOR SMITHSONIAN DISPLAY

First Lady Betty Ford made a choice typical of her when she selected one of her gowns to be displayed for posterity in the Smithsonian Institution.

With the uninhibited sincerity that is her trademark, Mrs. Ford selected this Bi-Centennial year a dress designed by an American woman, Frankie Welch, who is a long-time friend and who even <sup>has</sup> a trace of Cherokee Indian blood coursing through her veins. The choice represents Mrs. Ford's belief in the potential of American women. The simple elegance of the gown is representative of this country's American look contribution to feminine fashions.

The dress will be presented to the Smithsonian's First Ladies' Hall at a ceremony on June 24 which Mrs. Ford will attend. There it will join gowns worn by other first ladies throughout the republic's history. Fifty thousand visitors a day see the display in the Museum of History and Technology.

The dress is made of sequined lime green chiffon crepe, and flows in classic princess lines. It <sup>is</sup> has long, slender sleeves. There's a touch of Chinese influence at the open neckline with its high standing collar. <sup>in the fabric</sup> The dress will be one of only a few first lady dresses by American women designers in the Smithsonian display. Fewer than half the dresses were those worn to inaugural balls.

(more)



# Frankie Welch of Virginia

305 CAMERON STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

Dress -- add one

Mrs. Ford first wore the dress at a state dinner for the Shah of Iran. She has since worn it to state dinners for the Italian President Leone and King Juan Carlos of Spain. She wore another lime green Chinese silk dress of similar design by Frankie Welch when she sat for her official portrait.

It has been 13 years since Frankie Welch and Betty Ford brought their highly developed fashion sense together, and they have been friends ever since. At that time President Ford was in Congress. Frankie Welch was staging a fashion show, and Mrs. Ford was one of the models -- logical since as a young woman she worked as a model and fashion coordinator. In 1968 Mrs. Welch designed a red, white and blue daisy fabric as the official material for the Republican party. *at Mrs. Ford's request* Mrs. Ford coordinated the fashion show where it was first presented.

Both women lived with their families in Alexandria, Va. and their friendship continued. They attended the same Episcopal church in Alexandria, and eventually the Ford's older son and the Welchs' older daughter attended Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ at the same time.

In 1963 Frankie Welch opened her fashionable boutique "Frankie Welch of Virginia" in Old Town Alexandria. It is here that Mrs. Ford has joined a corps of other prominent women in selecting many items for her wardrobe. Some have been designed by Frankie Welch, and some by other designers whom the boutique carries.

(more)





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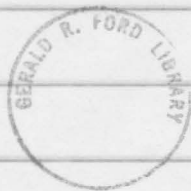
Frankie Welch, however, disclaims the title "dressmaker to the First Lady." Of Mrs. Ford she says, "She coordinates her own wardrobe; she's a fashion authority in her own right.

####



GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

~~///~~  
\* Style of dress was  
timeless - not faddy -  
goes on forever -



Mrs. Marshall  
who made dress  
Frankie



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

\* More substance

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Marmie ~~twiff~~<sup>erff</sup>



790-8960

"<sup>at</sup> Wash. Calendar  
mag." Ret  
call

Dates BF wore 10/12

Smithsonian gown



# NEWS

from the Office of Public Affairs For release June 24, 1976  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C. 20560

Telephone: (202) 381-5911

## MRS. FORD PRESENTS DRESS TO FIRST LADIES COLLECTION

### AT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford donated a pale green gown to the Smithsonian Institution on Wednesday, June 24 at a ceremony in the First Ladies Hall of the National Museum of History and Technology.

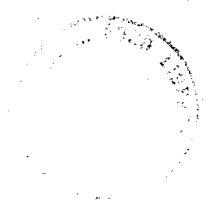
The princess style gown, made of sequined chiffon with a raised collar is embroidered with chrysanthemums and simulates fabric which Mrs. Ford brought home from China.

This gown, which Mrs. Ford has worn on four state occasions will become part of one of the most popular costume collections in the country..

S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian accepted the dress on behalf of the Institution.

"With today's addition," he said, " the collection represents every administration from President George Washington to President Gerald R. Ford."

"As bicentennial visitors pour into the Museum of History and Technology" Mr. Ripley continued, "the exhibit to which they most often ask to be directed is the First Ladies Hall. They come not only to admire the handsome gowns, they come because these gowns symbolize for them the women who wore them. The collection seems to provide an intimate acquaintance with each lady represented, and the gown of the reigning first lady is always the most popular dress in the collection."





Designed by Frankie Welch of Virginia, the dress was made in her Alexandria workroom. This is the first time a gown by a Washington area designer has been added to the collection.

Mrs. Ford wore the gown to the following state functions:

----White House State Dinner for the Shah of Iran, May 15, 1975

----State Dinner at Salzburg, Austria, June 1, 1975

----Reciprocal dinner at the Japanese Embassy given by Emperor Hirohito, October 3, 1975.

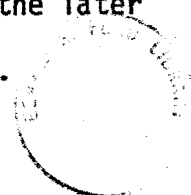
----White House State Dinner for King of Spain, Juan Carlos II, June 2, 1976.

A mannequin made to Mrs. Ford's physical size, and with her hair style, will wear the dress in <sup>a</sup> period setting showing the East Room of the White House as it has looked in the 20th century. Mrs. Ford's mannequin will be placed next to those wearing dresses donated by Mrs. Eisenhower, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Nixon.

The mannequins' faces in the hall are all the same, modeled after a bust of Codelia, (daughter of King Lear) which was sculpted by Pierce F. Connelly in 1863. (A copy of the sculpture is in the exhibit hall.)

The collection includes dresses worn by ladies who actually acted as hostesses in the White House rather than just as presidents' wives. In some instances a president's wife was unable to act in her official capacity and a relative or close family friend acted as First Lady for the President.

At present there are 16 inaugural dresses in the collection. Inaugural gowns were not available from many of the early first ladies when the collection was begun by Mrs. William Howard Talf in 1912, and some of the later administrations have been inaugurated without elaborate festivities.



The collection is installed in a series of eight period settings that give the viewer an opportunity to see the dresses in the type of surroundings in which they were originally worn. Each case contains dresses representing a time span of about 25 years. Changing styles in White House decoration from the earliest days to the present, are shown in the settings, which are based on written descriptions of the White House and available pictures. The collection is a graphic representation of the changes in American period costume from the administration of President George Washington to that of the present day, and as such it is of great interest to students of costume design.

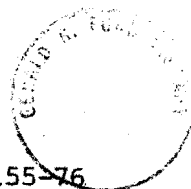
\*\*\*\*\*

For photos and complete description of each first ladies dress contact:

Geraldine Sanderson 202-381-6586

Gerald Lipson 202-381-5911

SI-155-76



Dear Fran,

Here is the  
invitation and  
information I have  
thus far.

call if I can  
be of help.

Geri Saderman

381-6586

PRESS RELEASE

JUNE 24, 1976

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford has donated an evening gown which she has worn in the White House to the Smithsonian Institution. It will be displayed in the First Ladies Hall of the National Museum of History and Technology.

The gown is made in a princess style with the classic shirt waist look that Mrs. Ford has become known for. The pale green fabric is called "zigalene" which is the trade name for nylon crepe chiffon. It is embroidered with chrysanthemums having sequin highlights of the same soft color.

The dress was designed by Frankie Welch of Virginia and was made in her work room in Alexandria, Virginia.

MBKlaphor:wco:6/10/76

PROPOSED REMARKS--Dress Presentation, Smithsonian Institute,  
June 24, 1976

Mr. Ripley, I'm delighted to have one of my favorite dresses in this very special collection. When I brought visitors to this Hall, never in my wildest dreams did I expect to ever be here myself.

I've often heard children in the hall point and ask: who is that lady? That's the way I feel today. Surely, the answer isn't Betty Ford. It's going to take a while to get used to the idea I could come over to the Smithsonian and see myself. I'm very thrilled.

Like so many Americans, I've been educated and entertained by the many wonders of the Smithsonian. I just want to say thanks to all who work so hard to keep the Smithsonian such a fascinating and growing treasure house. You really are doing a fabulous job, and I'm very honored to become part of the Institute.

# # #



MRS. FORD'S REMARKS  
BALL GOWN PRESENTATION  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

June 24, 1976

MR. RIPLEY,

I.

I'M DELIGHTED TO HAVE

ONE OF MY FAVORITE DRESSES

IN THIS VERY SPECIAL COLLECTION.

WHEN I BROUGHT VISITORS TO THIS HALL,

NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS

DID I EXPECT TO EVER BE HERE MYSELF.

I'VE OFTEN HEARD CHILDREN IN THE HALL

2.

POINT AND ASK: WHO IS THAT LADY?

SURELY, THE ANSWER ISN'T BETTY FORD.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE A WHILE

3.

TO GET USED TO THE IDEA

I COULD COME OVER TO THE SMITHSONIAN

AND SEE MYSELF.

BUT LET'S FACE IT,

I CAN'T HELP BUT BE THRILLED.





LIKE SO MANY AMERICANS,  
I'VE BEEN EDUCATED AND ENTERTAINED  
BY THE MANY WONDERS OF THE SMITHSONIAN.

I JUST WANT TO SAY THANKS  
TO ALL WHO WORK SO HARD  
TO KEEP THE SMITHSONIAN  
SUCH A FASCINATING AND GROWING TREASURE HOUSE.

YOU REALLY ARE DOING A FABULOUS JOB,  
AND I'M VERY HONORED TO BECOME  
PART OF THE INSTITUTE.

5.

# # #





*The Board of Regents  
The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution  
and  
The Director of the  
National Museum of History and Technology*

*request the honor of your presence  
at the presentation of*

*A Ball Gown  
by*

*Mrs. Gerald R. Ford*

*to the Collection of the Dresses of the First Ladies*

*Thursday afternoon, June the twenty-fourth  
Nineteen hundred and seventy-six  
at three o'clock*

*in the First Ladies Hall*

*National Museum of History and Technology  
Constitution Avenue at Fourteenth Street, Northwest  
Washington City*

*Please present this card*



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The Director of the  
National Museum of History and Technology*

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*Please present this card*

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

June 10, 1976

Suggestions for Mr. Ripley's Remarks - First Ladies Hall, June 24, 1976

The addition of a new gown to our Collection of Dresses of the First Ladies of the White House is a memorable occasion for the Museum and for the millions of Americans who treasure this collection above all other costumes collections. Today, Mrs. Ford will continue a tradition begun in 1912 when the then presiding First Lady, Mrs. William Howard Taft, graciously presented to the Museum one of her gowns. It was the first for exhibition which was hopefully planned to include dresses worn by every First Lady of the White House. Mrs. Taft's interest in the project and her generosity were instrumental in accomplishing this objective. In a very few years, dresses representing all the former First Ladies were received for the Collection and from the time of Mrs. Taft to the present, each First Lady has generously given a gown to continue the Collection. With today's addition, the Collection represents every administration from President George Washington to President Gerald Ford.

As bicentennial visitors pour into the Museum of History and Technology, the exhibit to which they most often ask to be directed is the First Ladies Hall. They come not only to admire the handsome gowns, they come because these gowns symbolize for them the women who wore them. It is the women who give life to the Collection. For students of American Costume, the

CONTINUED

gowns are an interesting panorama of fashion, but to many who have no more than a passing interest in fashion, the Collection seems to provide an intimate acquaintance with each lady represented. And the gown of the reigning First Lady is always the most popular dress in the Collection. It is on behalf of these people as well as the Smithsonian Institution that today I say thank you, Mrs. Ford for your addition to this Collection.

MBKlaphor:wco:6/10/76

For immediate release  
Tuesday, June 15, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

---

On June 24 at 3:00 P.M. Mrs. Ford will present a ball gown to the Collection of the Dresses of the First Ladies of the Smithsonian Institution. The presentation will take place in the First Ladies Hall, National Museum of History and Technology, Constitution Avenue at Fourteenth Street.

The gown, which was designed by Frankie Welch of Alexandria, Virginia, is made in a process style with a classic shirt waist look. It is a pale green nylon crepe chiffon embroidered with chrysanthemums having sequin highlights of the same soft color.

# # #



MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY—  YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

*Mailed 10/18/76*

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. \_\_\_\_\_  
 WILL CALL AGAIN  IS WAITING TO SEE YOU  
 RETURNED YOUR CALL  WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Cong  
Mark Anderson  
2470  
attn  
Raylan  
Ples*

RECEIVED BY	DATE	TIME



PROPOSED SCHEDULE

PRESENTATION OF GOWN BY MRS. FORD  
TO THE FIRST LADIES' GOWN COLLECTION  
MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY

Thursday, June 24, 1976

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1976

2:57 pm Mrs. Ford boards motorcade on South Grounds  
  
MOTORCADE DEPARTS South Grounds enroute  
the Smithsonian, Museum of History and Technology

(Driving time: 3 minutes)

3:00 pm MOTORCADE ARRIVES Museum of History and  
Technology, Constitution Avenue entrance

Mrs. Ford greeted by:

Mr. S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the  
Smithsonian; and Dr. Brooke Hindle,  
Director, National Museum of History and  
Technology.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

Official Party proceeds to First Ladies' Hall

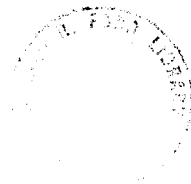
3:05 pm Presentation of Ball Gown Ceremony (standing)  
Introduction and remarks by Mr. S. Dillon Ripley

\*Presentation and remarks by Mrs. Ford

FULL PRESS COVERAGE

3:10 pm Mrs. Ford, official photograph with mannequin and  
gown

Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Frankie Welch of Virginia (gown  
designer) - photograph



Page Two  
Mrs. Ford - Gown Presentation

3:12 pm Reception for invited guests

Mrs. Ford escorted by Mr. S. Dillon Ripley

ATTENDANCE: 100  
(B.F. Staff Guests: appr. 17)

3:30 pm Mrs. Ford DEPARTS Reception, boards motorcade  
for Residence

(Driving time: 3 minutes)

3:33 pm ARRIVE Residence

NOTE FOR B.F. STAFF GUESTS: Staff wishing to remain at the  
Reception, staff vehicles will DEPART Museum for White House  
at 3:45 pm.

Advanceman: Jim Caverly



\* Press Van!  
\* Call Bin/lor?

- ✓ - CBS
- - NBC
- ✓ - ABC - Jeanne
- ✓ - AP (Betty W. mo.)
- ~~the~~ Post
- ✓ - Star
- ✓ - UPI (Helen Thomas)

Sally Steele

Bill Nicholson  
a wife  
& guest



Mr. Ripley  
Brooke Hindle  
~~Mr. [unclear]~~ - the Museum  
Dir of H. + Technology

Ingram Yawn  
Geo - Nixon  
- Johnson  
- Truman - no  
- Kennedy

Questions for Sheila - for Frankie  
to ask -

1. Can you have a pre-showing of  
dress for press at your  
home office the day before?  
Release date date of event -

2. Do you have pics of the dress?  
Can we buy some for distribution

3. Get a <sup>fresh</sup> quote from Mrs. Ford  
as why she chose this dress!

4. We will show you <sup>(Sheila)</sup> the tour  
plan -

Quote should emphasize choice  
an Am. Designer & a woman  
because love of country & belief  
in talents of women are basic to  
Mrs. Ford's philosophy.



m

~~scribbles~~

Wicks  
Swanson  
of People -

No - 15 SE 75 A 3319 -

official write the

12

Betty + 7

(628-4422)

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~~scribbles~~

ci 7 800

Key Pullin  
speech write  
for this - Ford

EVENT: THE PRESENTATION OF A BALL GOWN BY MRS. GERALD R. FORD TO THE  
COLLECTION OF THE GOWNS OF THE FIRST LADIES.

TIME: 3 P.M.

LOCATION: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY, CONSTITUTION AT  
14TH ST., NW.



1. John Barry - Alexandria Post Packet
2. Betty Beale - Star
3. Susan Bliss - TORCH *Linda St. Thomas*
4. Sarah Booth Conroy - Post
5. Eleni Epstein - Star
6. Dick Hoffmeister - Smithsonian
7. Nina Hyde - Post
8. Aimee Young Jackson
9. ~~Fran Levine~~ *Betty Williams* - AP
10. Naomi Nover
11. Ted Park - SI Magazine
12. Joan Pinkerton - WMAL-TV (with crew)
13. Anna Mae Sikowsky - CBS Radio
14. Ross Stansfield - photographer - Alexandria Post
15. Susan Watters - Women's Wear Daily
16. Mindy Yochelson - UPI
17. ABC
18. CBS
19. *Time Mag* *Kat Luce*





MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

TO:

Eisert

YOU WERE CALLED BY

YOU WERE VISITED BY

Myra Hamie

OF (Organization)

(404) 572-5324

PLEASE CALL →

PHONE NO.  
CODE/EXT.

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Bolivar  
Mr. O'Rear  
Wom Dpt

"pic"

Box 4689  
30302



RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

# Frankie Welch of Virginia

305 CAMERON STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

FOR RELEASE JUNE 24, 1976

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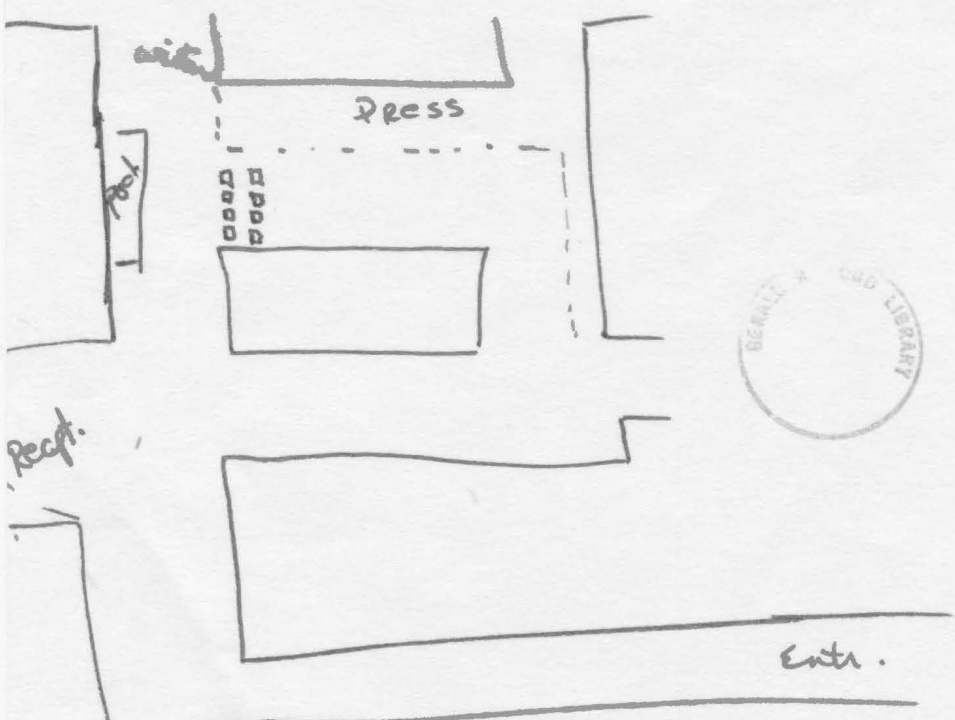


1740  
 w/ Frankie  
 w/ N  
 be there  
 Photo Session  
 FRANKIE WALSH  
 SEAMSTRESS + MRS. MARSHALL  
 MARSHALL  
 THE WHITE HOUSE  
 WASHINGTON

Who w/ nam. *always been done* screen

Writers w/ stand in alcove  
 staff go. w/ her but n/ret.

\* FRIENDS OF MRS. FORD'S



YOU WERE CALLED BY — YOU WERE VISITED BY —  
Shah of Iran  
May 15, '75

PHONE NO. ← PLEASE CALL →  
CODE/EXT. RETURNED YOUR CALL  
WISHERS W/ APPOINTMENT  
1/2 Salzburg Austria  
4, 1 '75

Recipro  
Hirohito Japan Embassy  
4, 3 '75

Juan Carlos  
4, 2 '76

→ ~~2~~ ✓ ~~3~~ ✓ 3 & 4  
STANDARD FORM NO. 64  
REVISED AUGUST 1967  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6



YOU WERE CALLED BY—

YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

PLEASE CALL →

PHONE NO.  
CODE/EXT. \_\_\_\_\_

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Frances Cawthorn  
Atlanta Journal*

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

STANDARD FORM 63  
REVISED AUGUST 1967  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

GPO : 1969-O-48-16-80341-1 332-889

63-108



W XOL

MEMORANDUM OF CALL

TO: Sally

YOU WERE CALLED BY—  YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Dravins Krivickas

OF (Organization)

262-7164

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. \_\_\_\_\_

WILL CALL AGAIN  IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL  WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

call about 3-

Starts to cover tomorrow



RECEIVED BY	DATE	TIME
<u>R.</u>	<u>6/23</u>	<u>11:40</u>



MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

TO:

*Sally*

YOU WERE CALLED BY—

YOU WERE VISITED BY—

*Sally Steel*

OF (Organization)

*229-8898*

PLEASE CALL →

PHONE NO.  
CODE/EXT.

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

~~*[scribble]*~~

*About gown  
tomorrow & pick-up*

RECEIVED BY

*R.*

DATE

*6/22*

TIME

*9:40*

STANDARD FORM 63

REVISED AUGUST 1967

GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

GPO : 1969-O-48-16-50241-1 833-880

63-108



**GERALDINE SANDERSON**  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF  
HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560**

**TELEPHONE  
(202) 381-6586**

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

TO:

*Sally*  
 YOU WERE CALLED BY—  YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

*Geraldine Sanders*  
*381-6586*  
 PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. \_\_\_\_\_  
 WILL CALL AGAIN  IS WAITING TO SEE YOU  
 RETURNED YOUR CALL  WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Smithsonian*  
*invites*  
*today*  
*Thurs. 3:00 PM*  
*June 24*  
*1st Ladies Hall*

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

*R.* *6/15* *11:40*  
STANDARD FORM 63  
REVISED AUGUST 1967  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

GPO : 1969-048-16-80341-1 332-889

63-108

YOU WERE CALLED BY—  YOU WERE WRITTEN BY—

2. → Recept. (150 people)

1. → Ceremony in Hall

② - Ripley - accept

① - MRS. Ford - give dress

Photo 9/4 w/dress

→ remarks  
→ how long



Sally

Frankie Welch wants to see Sheila - possibly between 4:30 + 5:00 } tomorrow  
call Didi - 549-0104

~~Newsweek - interview with Jack this afternoon at 4:00~~

~~Lucy Howard~~

~~Jerry Arkin - Photo~~

First Ladies gown

- Geraldine Sanderson - 381-6586

Margaret Klapthor -

Sending Invitations tomorrow - 6/15/76

Sending to following press

Bethy Beale

Dorothy McCordle - Star

Don Sanders - AP

Linda Charleton - NY Times

Mike Finsille - UPI

Helen Thomas - UPI

Bonnie Appelo - Times

Jane Whitman - Newsweek

Susan Watless - WWD

Clare Crawford - People

National Observer

U.S. News

Assignment Decks - ABC

NBC

CBS

Today Show

Good mny ~~Star~~ America

CBS mny News

WRC, WTOP, WMAL, WTTG

Gene White - W. Post

Pina Hyde - W. Post

Sara Booth Conway - Post

Eleni Epstein - Star

Maryanne Dolan - Star

Susan Fogg - Newhouse



SPECIAL GUESTS - PRESENTATION OF MRS. FORD'S GOWN

6/24/76

Mrs. Cederberg

Mrs. Ripley and daughters

Mr. and Mrs. Conger

Lady Ramsbotham

Mrs. Carmichael

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Becker

Mrs. Burger

Mrs. Hindle and son

Mrs. Bedini

Mrs. Boorstin

Mrs. Tillotson

Ms. Frankie Welch (dress designer)

Mrs. Lawrence Hoes (Monroe descendant)

Mrs. Walter Peter (Martha Washington descendant)

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Harrison (William Henry and Benjamin Harrison descendant)

Lillian Rogers Parks (Maid at White House)

Mrs. Sara Taft (Pattern maker for First Ladies Dresses project)



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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*Information From the*

# SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

THE COLLECTION OF DRESSES OF THE FIRST LADIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE  
IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY

The Collection of Dresses of the First Ladies of the White House is one of the most popular exhibits in the National Museum of History and Technology. The idea of such a collection originated in the early 1900's with Mrs. Julian James and Mrs. Rose Gouverneur Hoes, two public-spirited citizens of Washington, D.C. The first dress received for the collection was the inaugural gown of Mrs. William Howard Taft, the presiding First Lady, who gave it to the Museum in 1912. Former First Ladies and their descendants all over the United States were approached, and other dresses were soon received. It was not long until the collection contained a dress representing the administration of every past President of the United States; and from the Taft administration to the present day, each First Lady has added a dress to the collection. The dresses themselves are exhibited on mannequins made to fit the individual dresses. The faces are all alike, but the coiffure of each lady represented has been copied from a picture or portrait of the lady, to give a varied and interesting appearance to the entire group.

The collection is installed in a series of eight period settings that give the viewer an opportunity to see the dresses in the type of surroundings in which they were originally worn. Each case contains dresses representing a time span of about 25 years. Changing styles in White House decoration, from the earliest days to the present, are shown in the settings, which are based on written descriptions of the White House and available pictures. The collection is a graphic representation of the changes in American period costume from the administration of President George Washington to that of the present day, and as such it is of great interest to students of costume design.

The collection contains dresses worn by the ladies who actually acted as hostesses in the White House rather than just the Presidents' wives. It was found as the collection was assembled that frequently circumstances did not permit a President's wife to act in her official capacity and that a relative or close family friend acted as First Lady for the President. There are now 16 inaugural dresses in the collection. Inaugural gowns were not available for many of the early First Ladies, and some of the later administrations have been inaugurated without any elaborate festivities.





Information From the

# SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

## DESCRIPTION OF LADIES REPRESENTED IN OUR COLLECTION OF DRESSES OF THE FIRST LADIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HEIGHT OF MANNEQUIN</u>	<u>HAIR</u>	<u>EYES</u>
Martha Washington	5' 5 1/2"	Brown	Hazel
Abigail Smith Adams	5' 3 1/2"	Dark Brown	Dark Brown
Martha Jefferson Randolph	5' 6"	Chestnut	Blue
Dolley Madison	5' 7"	Black	Blue
Elizabeth K. Monroe	5' 4 1/2"	Black	Blue
Maria Monroe Gouverneur	5' 1 1/2"	Brown	Blue
Louisa Catherine Adams	5' 6 1/2"	Brown	Dark
Emily Donelson	5' 4 1/2"	Auburn	Brown
Sarah Yorke Jackson	5'	Black	Dark Brown
Sarah Angelica Van Buren	5' 9"	Dark Brown	Dark Brown
Jane Irwin Findlay	5' 4 1/2"	Gray	Brown
Julia Gardiner Tyler	5' 5 1/2"	Dark Black	Hazel Gray
Sarah Childress Polk	5' 7"	Dark Black	Dark
Betty Taylor Bliss Dandridge	5' 2"	Brown	Blue
Abigail Powers Fillmore	5' 4 1/2"	Auburn	Blue
Jane Appleton Pierce	5' 1"	Dark	Dark
Harriet Lane Johnston	5' 8"	Blonde	Dark Blue
Mary Todd Lincoln	5' 4 1/2"	Brown	Blue
Martha Johnson Patterson	5' 4 1/2"	Light Brown	Blue
Julia Dent Grant	5' 4 1/2"	Graying Brown	Hazel
Lucy Webb Hayes	5' 4 1/2"	Dark Black	Dark Brown
Lucretia Rudolph Garfield	5' 3 1/2"	Brown	Brown
Mary Arthur McElroy	5' 4 3/4"	Dark	Dark
Rose Elizabeth Cleveland	5' 3 1/2"	Dark Brown	Dark Brown
Caroline Scott Harrison	5' 3 1/2"	Gray	Hazel
Mary Harrison McKee	5' 2"	Brown	Brown
Frances Folsom Cleveland	5' 6"	Brown	Blue
Ida Saxton McKinley	5' 5 3/4"	Gray	Blue
Edith Carow Roosevelt	5' 8"	Brown	Gray
Helen Herron Taft	5' 7 1/8"	Graying Brown	Dark Blue
Ellen Axson Wilson	5' 6 1/2"	Golden Brown	Brown
Edith Bolling Wilson	5' 7"	Dark Brown	Dark Brown
Florence Kling Harding	5' 5 1/2"	Gray	Blue
Grace Goodhue Coolidge	5' 8"	Brown	Hazel
Lou Henry Hoover	5' 8"	Gray	Blue
Anna Eleanor Roosevelt	5' 9"	Brown	Blue
Bess Wallace Truman	5' 5 1/2"	Gray	Blue
Mamie Doud Eisenhower	5' 5"	Brown	Blue
Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy	5' 7"	Brown	Brown
Claudia Taylor Johnson	5' 6"	Dark Brown	Brown
Patricia Nixon	5' 6"	Blonde	Brown

# FIRST LADIES

## Presidents' Wives and Hostesses of the White House



Photographic prints (8"x10" contact including border) are available for \$1.25 each. These reproductions are the best available from the portraits in the Library's collections. However, they vary considerably according to the quality of the original.

Orders are subject to a minimum charge of \$2.00, with minimum postage fees of \$.25 for orders of \$10.00 or less, and \$1.00 for orders over \$10.00.

Negative numbers and names should be given when ordering prints. Single-weight glossy prints will be furnished unless double-weight semi-matte prints are specified. Address requests and make remittances payable to:

Chief, Photoduplication Service  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. 20540



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45. Wilson  
 46. Wilson  
 47. Wilson  
 48. Harding  
 49. Collins  
 50. Hoover  
 51. F. B. Roosevelt  
 52. Truman  
 53. Eisenhower  
 54. Kennedy  
 55. L. B. Johnson  
 56. Nixon  
 57. Ford  
 58. Carter  
 59. Reagan  
 60. Bush  
 61. Clinton  
 62. Obama  
 63. Biden  
 64. Trump  
 65. Harris  
 66. Kamala Harris  
 67. Joe Biden  
 68. Barack Obama  
 69. George W. Bush  
 70. Bill Clinton  
 71. Jimmy Carter  
 72. Ronald Reagan  
 73. Dwight D. Eisenhower  
 74. John F. Kennedy  
 75. Lyndon B. Johnson  
 76. Hubert H. Hoover  
 77. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
 78. Harry S. Truman  
 79. Virginia Wallace Truman  
 80. Elizabeth Taylor  
 81. Audrey Hepburn  
 82. Grace Kelly  
 83. Elizabeth Taylor  
 84. Richard Gere  
 85. Julia Roberts  
 86. Angelina Jolie  
 87. Brad Pitt  
 88. George Clooney  
 89. Tom Cruise  
 90. Al Pacino  
 91. Denzel Washington  
 92. Morgan Freeman  
 93. Will Smith  
 94. Ice Cube  
 95. Cuba Gooding Jr.  
 96. Laurence Fishburne  
 97. Laurence Fishburne  
 98. Laurence Fishburne  
 99. Laurence Fishburne  
 100. Laurence Fishburne

ADMINISTRATION	FIRST LADIES	NEGATIVE NUMBER
1. Washington	*Martha Dandridge (Custis) Washington	LC-USZ62-25767
2. John Adams	*Abigail Smith Adams	LC-USZ62-25768
- Jefferson	Martha Wayles (Skelton) Jefferson	No portrait known
3. Jefferson	Martha Jefferson Randolph	LC-USZ62-25769
- Jefferson	Maria "Polly" Wayles Jefferson Eppes	No portrait known
4. Madison	*Dolley Payne (Todd) Madison	LC-USZ62-25770
5. Monroe	*Elizabeth Kortright Monroe	LC-USZ62-25771
6. Monroe	Eliza Monroe Hay	LC-USZ62-25819
7. John Q. Adams	*Louisa Catherine Johnson Adams	LC-USZ62-25772
8. Jackson	*Rachel Donelson (Robards) Jackson	LC-USZ62-25773
9. Jackson	Emily Tennessee Donelson	LC-USZ62-25774
10. Jackson	Sarah Yorke Jackson	LC-USZ62-25775
11. Van Buren	*Hannah Hoes Van Buren	LC-USZ62-25776
12. Van Buren	Angelica Singleton Van Buren	LC-USZ62-25777
13. W. H. Harrison	*Anna Tuthill Symmes Harrison	LC-USZ62-25820
- W. H. Harrison	Jane Irwin Harrison	D.A.R., Vincennes, Ind
14. W. H. Harrison	Jane Irwin Findlay	LC-USZ62-25778
15. Tyler	*Letitia Christian Tyler	LC-USZ62-25779
16. Tyler	Priscilla Cooper Tyler	LC-USZ62-25780
17. Tyler	Letitia Tyler Semple	LC-USZ62-25818
18. Tyler	*Julia Gardiner Tyler	LC-USZ62-25781
19. Polk	*Sarah Childress Polk	LC-USZ62-25782
- Taylor	Margaret Mackall Smith Taylor	Spurious portrait
20. Taylor	Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Taylor Bliss (Dandridge)	LC-USZ62-25783
21. Fillmore	*Abigail Powers Fillmore	LC-USZ62-25784
22. Fillmore	Mary Abigail Fillmore	LC-USZ62-25785
23. Fillmore	*Caroline Carmichael (McIntosh) Fillmore	LC-USZ62-25786
24. Pierce	*Jane Means Appleton Pierce	LC-USZ62-25787
- Pierce	Abby Kent Means	Not available
25. Buchanan	Harriet Lane (Johnston)	LC-USZ62-25788
26. Lincoln	*Mary Todd Lincoln	LC-USZ62-25789
27. A. Johnson	*Eliza McCardle Johnson	LC-USZ62-25821
28. A. Johnson	Martha Johnson Patterson	LC-USZ62-25790
29. Grant	*Julia Dent Grant	LC-USZ62-25791
30. Hayes	*Lucy Ware Webb Hayes	LC-USZ62-25792
31. Garfield	*Lucretia Rudolph Garfield	LC-USZ62-25793
32. Arthur	*Ellen Lewis Herndon Arthur	LC-USZ62-25794
33. Arthur	Mary Arthur McElroy	LC-USZ62-25795
34. Cleveland	Rose Elizabeth Cleveland	LC-USZ62-25796
35. Cleveland	*Frances Folsom Cleveland	LC-USZ62-25797
36. B. Harrison	*Caroline Lavinia Scott Harrison	LC-USZ62-25798
37. B. Harrison	Mary Scott Harrison McKee	LC-USZ62-25799
38. B. Harrison	*Mary Scott Lord (Dimmick) Harrison	LC-USZ62-25800
39. McKinley	*Ida Saxton McKinley	LC-USZ62-25801
40. T. R. Roosevelt	*Alice Hathaway Lee Roosevelt	LC-USZ62-25802
41. T. R. Roosevelt	*Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt	LC-USZ62-25803
42. Taft	*Helen Herron Taft	LC-USZ62-25804
43. Taft	Helen Herron Taft (Manning)	LC-USZ62-25805
44. Wilson	*Ellen Louise Axson Wilson	LC-USZ62-25806
45. Wilson	Helen Woodrow Bones	LC-USZ62-25807
46. Wilson	Margaret Woodrow Wilson	LC-USZ62-25817
47. Wilson	*Edith Bolling (Galt) Wilson	LC-USZ62-25808
48. Harding	*Florence Kling (DeWolf) Harding	LC-USZ62-25809
49. Coolidge	*Grace Anna Goodhue Coolidge	LC-USZ62-25810
50. Hoover	*Lou Henry Hoover	LC-USZ62-25811
51. F. D. Roosevelt	*Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Roosevelt	LC-USZ62-25812
52. Truman	*Elizabeth "Bess" Virginia Wallace Truman	LC-USZ62-25813
53. Eisenhower	*Mary "Mamie" Geneva Doud Eisenhower	LC-USZ62-25814
54. Kennedy	*Jacqueline Lee Bouvier Kennedy	LC-USZ62-25815
55. L. B. Johnson	*Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Taylor Johnson	LC-USZ62-25816
56. Nixon	*Patricia Ryan Nixon	LC-USZ62-35648

\*Wife

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
U. S. National Museum  
Department of Civil History  
Washington, D. C. 20560

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF FIRST LADIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE

Black and white, 8 by 10 inch photographic prints of First Ladies of the White House, as listed below, may be purchased from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560, at \$3.50 per print. An additional 25 cents should be added to each order to cover cost of mailing and handling. Please order by negative number and make remittance payable to the Smithsonian Institution.

Martha Washington, wife of President George Washington, from the oil portrait by John Trumbull.....	26483
Louisa Catherine Adams, wife of President John Quincy Adams, from the oil portrait by Charles Bird King.....	41241
Jane Irwin Findlay (Mrs. James Findlay), family friend and hostess for President William Henry Harrison, from a daguerreotype.....	37320
Abigail Powers Fillmore, wife of President Millard Fillmore, from a photograph contemporary with her stay in the White House.....	41283
Harriet Lane Johnston, niece and First Lady for President James Buchanan, from a miniature on ivory by J. Henry Brown.....	676-A
Julia Dent Grant, wife of President Ulysses S. Grant, in a family scene painted by William Cogswell.....	663
Rose Elizabeth Cleveland, sister of and White House hostess for President Grover Cleveland during his bachelorhood, from a contemporary photograph.....	43829

Photographs of First Ladies (Presidents' Wives and Hostesses of the White House) may be obtained from the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. For a list of the negative numbers and instructions for ordering write to the Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. 20540.



Information From the

# SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

## PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS OF DRESSES OF FIRST LADIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE

Processing fees for black and white photographs are listed on the attached photographic services information sheet. The fee for color slides of the First Ladies Gowns is \$.40 each with a \$2.00 processing fee per order. A complete set of slides with a descriptive listing is available for \$18.00. Please refer all questions concerning photographic orders to the Photographic Services Division.

<u>Dress worn by:</u>	<u>Negative No.</u>	<u>Slide No.</u>
Martha Washington (Mrs. George Washington) .....	57614	72-2401
Abigail Adams (Mrs. John Adams) .....	57615	72-2402
Shawl worn by Martha Jefferson Randolph (Mrs. Thomas Randolph), daughter of President Thomas Jefferson .....	57616	72-2403
Dolley Madison (Mrs. James Madison) .....	57617	72-2404
Elizabeth K. Monroe (Mrs. James Monroe) Courtesy of the President James Monroe Museum, Fredericksburg, Va. ....	57618	72-2405
Marie Monroe Gouverneur (Mrs. Samuel L. Gouverneur), daughter of President James Monroe. Courtesy of the President James Monroe Museum, Fredericksburg, Va. ....	57619	72-2406
Louisa Catherine Adams (Mrs. John Quincy Adams) .....	57620	72-2407
*Emily Donelson (Mrs. Andrew Donelson), niece of President Andrew Jackson .....	57621	72-2408
Sarah Yorke Jackson (Mrs. Andrew Jackson, Jr.), wife of adopted son of President Andrew Jackson .....	57622	72-2409
Angelica Singleton Van Buren (Mrs. Abram Van Buren), daughter-in-law of President Martin Van Buren .....	57623	72-2410
*Jane Irwin Findlay (Mrs. James Findlay), hostess for President William Henry Harrison .....	57624	72-2411
Julia Gardiner Tyler (Mrs. John Tyler) .....	57625	72-2412
*Sarah C. Polk (Mrs. James K. Polk) .....	57626	72-2413
Betty Taylor Bliss (Mrs. William W. Bliss), daughter of President Zachary Taylor .....	57627	72-2414
Abigail Powers Fillmore (Mrs. Millard Fillmore) .....	57628	72-2415
Jane Appleton Pierce (Mrs. Franklin Pierce) .....	57629	72-2416

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS OF DRESSES OF FIRST LADIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE

<u>Dress worn by:</u>	<u>Negative No.</u>	<u>Slide No.</u>
Harriet Lane, niece of President James Buchanan .....	57630	72-2417
Mary Todd Lincoln (Mrs. Abraham Lincoln) .....	57631	72-2418
Martha Johnson Patterson (Mrs. David T. Patterson), daughter of President Andrew Johnson .....	57632	72-2419
*Julia Dent Grant (Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant) .....	57633	72-2420
Lucy Webb Hayes (Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes) .....	57634	72-2421
*Lucretia R. Garfield (Mrs. James A. Garfield) .....	57635	72-2422
Mary Arthur McElroy (Mrs. John McElroy), sister of President Chester Arthur .....	57636	72-2423
Rose Cleveland, sister of President Grover Cleveland .....	57637	72-2424
*Caroline Scott Harrison (Mrs. Benjamin Harrison) .....	57638	72-2425
*Mary Harrison McKee (Mrs. James McKee), daughter of President Benjamin Harrison .....	57639	72-2426
Frances Folsom Cleveland (Mrs. Grover Cleveland) .....	57640	72-2427
*Ida Saxton McKinley (Mrs. William McKinley) .....	57641	72-2428
*Edith Carow Roosevelt (Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt) .....	57642	72-2429
*Helen Herron Taft (Mrs. William Howard Taft) .....	57643	72-2430
Ellen Axson Wilson (Mrs. Woodrow Wilson I) .....	57644	72-2431
Edith Bolling Wilson (Mrs. Woodrow Wilson II) .....	57645	72-2432
Florence Kling Harding (Mrs. Warren G. Harding) .....	57646	72-2433
Grace Goodhue Coolidge (Mrs. Calvin Coolidge) .....	57647	72-2434
Lou Henry Hoover (Mrs. Herbert Hoover) .....	57648	72-2435
*Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt) .....	57649	72-2436
*Bess Wallace Truman (Mrs. Harry S. Truman) .....	57650	72-2437
*Mamie Doud Eisenhower (Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower) .....	57651	72-2438
*Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy (Mrs. John F. Kennedy) .....	57652	72-2439
*Lady Bird Taylor Johnson (Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson) .....	57653	72-2440
*Patricia Ryan Nixon (Mrs. Richard M. Nixon) .....	73315	72-2441

---Compiled by the Division of Political History,  
The National Museum of History and Technology,  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C. 20560

\*Inaugural dresses

Leaflet 73-1  
Smithsonian Institution





*Information From the*

# SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

## ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON

### MARTHA DANDRIDGE CUSTIS WASHINGTON

Martha Dandridge was born on a large plantation on the Pamunkey River in Virginia on June 21 of the year 1731. She was the oldest child of Colonel John Dandridge and Frances Jones Dandridge.

Martha had no formal education, but until she was 15 years old her days were filled with lessons in housekeeping, music, dancing and sewing. She entered society in the town of Williamsburg at the age of 15 and was a reigning belle until she married Daniel Parke Custis, a wealthy planter with a fortune in lands, slaves and money, in 1749. At his death a few years later, Martha was left a wealthy widow with two small children.

A year after the death of her husband, Martha Custis first met Colonel George Washington, just returned from the Braddock campaign and already well known and respected in his native state. They were married in 1759. The bride is described at this time as short, slight with brown hair and brown eyes.

George Washington and his wife, Martha, with the two young Custis children, settled down at Mount Vernon where they lived the leisurely attractive life customary of the Virginia planter. Their home became famous throughout Virginia for its hospitality, with Martha as its hostess.

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, George Washington became the general of the Continental Army and Martha Washington began her life as wife of a public servant. She followed her husband into camp

during the long winters of the war, returning to Mount Vernon during the summer campaigns. Her dignity and courage were an inspiration to her husband and his troops and she contributed materially to the comfort of the small army whenever she was in camp.

General and Mrs. Washington returned to Mount Vernon at the end of the war to resume the quiet, leisurely life they enjoyed at their home. But again Washington was called to serve his country, and Martha Washington became the wife of the first President of the United States. Lacking precedent for her manner of entertaining, Mrs. Washington settled many questions of official etiquette with common sense and dignity. She received her guests seated at her weekly receptions, and it is thus we find her presented in our collection. Accounts of Mrs. Washington describe her as a short person, with white powdered hair, wearing fine clothes of satins, silks, and velvets, who had the ability to give a homelike charm to the most formal occasion. Martha Washington was not sorry to step down from her position after eight years, as, she had felt as First Lady "more like a state prisoner than anything else."

The last years of her life were spent at Mount Vernon, surrounded by her husband and grandchildren but acting even then as a gracious hostess for the many visitors who came to pay their respects to her husband. The three years of her life which followed the death of George Washington were spent at Mount Vernon in virtual retirement, and she was laid to rest at his side in 1802.



*Information From the*

# SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

## DRESS OF MARTHA DANDRIDGE CUSTIS WASHINGTON

First Lady 1789-1797

The dress which was worn by Martha Washington, the first of our Presidential Hostesses, is made of faille in the more conservative style of the late eighteenth century. It has a voluminous skirt and a tightfitting bodice which laces down the back. The low neckline of the dress is edged with an inch width of fine lace. Around the shoulders of the figure is a soft, white shawl of Mechlin lace, and she wears lace mitts on her hands. As Mrs. Washington was accustomed to wearing a "Mob Cap" to all social functions, she is represented in this collection with one of white lace on her head.

The material of this dress, which was probably purchased in London, is salmon pink in color and the faille is hand-painted with a black-white ribbon chain which forms medallion spaces all over the dress. Each medallion is joined to the next with a emerald green square. In the larger of the medallions are painted native wild flowers of North America--the violet, buttercup, daisy, morning-glory, arbutus; and in the smaller spaces are painted insects such as the grasshopper, spider, fly, ladybug and the wasp.

Mrs. Washington holds in her hands a brown satin bag which she made and which is embroidered in ribbon work. The name "Mrs. Washington" in old-fashioned script is worked across the front of the bag.





*Information From the*

# SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

## ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT JAMES MADISON

### DOLLEY PAYNE TODD MADISON

Dolley Payne was born in 1772 in North Carolina, the second child of John and Mary Coles Payne of Virginia ancestry. In 1783, while Dolley was still a little girl, her father joined the Society of Friends and moved his family to Philadelphia to enable his children to participate in the educational and religious benefits available in the city of the Quakers. In Philadelphia, Dolley was brought up in the strict discipline of the society and her maturing beauty was hidden in the somber dress of the Quakers. But the discipline and Quaker dress did not conceal the happy personality and warm heart with which nature had blessed Dolley Payne. She married another young Quaker when she was nineteen years old - John Todd, a rising lawyer in Philadelphia. For three short years she lived the quiet secluded life of a Quaker wife and mother, and then in 1793 John Todd died in a yellow fever epidemic leaving Dolley a widow with a small son.

Meanwhile Philadelphia had become the capital of the newly formed United States and Philadelphia streets were crowded with strangers, the great and near great concerned with the management of the country. No wonder the young widow attracted attention, as she is described as having laughing Irish blue eyes, curling black hair, and warm-hued skin. She attracted none other than the "great little Madison", one



of the most talented members of the Congress and a statesman of wealth and social position. They were married in 1794 at the residence of Dolley's young sister in Virginia. The bride was 23 at that time, and her husband was over 20 years older. The wedding took place with the approval and best wishes of President and Mrs. Washington and other leaders of the young country who were particularly interested in Mr. Madison's career.

Dolley, her young son and new husband went immediately to "Montpelier", the Madison estate in Virginia, where they lived a quiet, leisurely life until 1801, when James Madison was called to Washington to be Secretary of State for President Thomas Jefferson. Already Dolley's popularity was established with her Virginia kin and the trip to Washington included visits at many of the homes at which she was so welcome. In Washington the Madison home quickly became the center of society for that gay city. Blessed with a desire to please and a willingness to be pleased, she was soon loved by everyone and political quarrels were soothed by her gracious tact.

As President Jefferson's daughters were often not available to hostess at the White House, Mrs. Madison presided over many of the receptions and formal dinners and Mr. Jefferson greatly depended on her for assistance. In 1809 James Madison succeeded Jefferson as President and Dolley Madison moved into the White House as First Lady. The eight years of the administration which followed were years of stately gaiety and a perpetual round of parties. Dolley was 37 years old, still young in appearance and well accomplished in social knowledge.

She had discarded Quaker dress many years before and she now dressed handsomely and "in the mode". Mrs. Margaret Bayard Smith, entertaining chronicler of early Washington society, writes of her as follows:

"She looked like a Queen..... It would be absolutely impossible for anyone to behave with more perfect propriety than she did. Unassuming dignity, sweetness and grace. She really in manner and appearance answered all my ideas of royalty".

Dolley Madison's popularity withstood the increasing political animosities of the last administration of her husband and the troubled years of the War of 1812. Though she was forced to flee from the White House before an invading army, she returned to the city and the administration closed in a blaze of social glory.

The Madisons returned to Montpelier and lived there until the death of President Madison in 1836. The next winter Dolley Madison returned to Washington and again her home became one of the centers of society in that city. She retained her great popularity to the end of her life, and she died loved and respected by all in 1849.

The record made by the delightful personality of this unusual woman has endured even to this day. She remains for each generation one of the best known and best loved First Ladies of the White House.





*Information From the*

# SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

## DRESS OF DOLLEY PAYNE TODD MADISON

First Lady, 1809-1817

Dolley Madison wore this dress in 1816 at a New Year's Day reception held in their temporary home in Washington, D. C., at 19th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. during the reconstruction of the White House. Her dress was described by Mrs. Benjamin Crowninshield, wife of the Secretary of the Navy, as "yellow satin embroidered all over with sprigs of butterflies, not two alike in the dress; a narrow border in all colors; made high-in-the-neck; a little cape, long sleeves and a white bonnet with feathers." The exquisite multicolor Chinese embroidery also includes insects and flowers. This dress exemplifies the Empire style worn in the United States in the first quarter of the 19th Century.





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## ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

### MARY TODD LINCOLN

Mary Todd was born in Lexington, Kentucky in 1818, daughter of pioneer settlers of the Blue Grass State. Her father, Robert Smith Todd, was a leading citizen of his community. Her mother died when Mary was 7, and her father married again in a short time. Mary had the advantages of a nice home and pleasant social life and she was well educated in private schools. As she grew up, she was described by her companions as "vivacious, nervous, impulsive, excitable, with a charming personality, marred only by cutting sarcastic wit which cut deeper than she intended". It was said that she had clear blue eyes, long lashes, light brown hair with a glint of bronze, and a lovely complexion.

When Mary Todd was 21 years old she went to Springfield, Illinois to live with her sister, Mrs. Ninian Edwards. Here she met Abraham Lincoln, and two years later after a stormy courtship and broken engagement, they were married. Though the two were opposite in many ways, there was always between them the strong tie of their mutual ambitions. The years in Springfield brought hard work, a family of boys, and reduced family circumstances to the pleasure-loving girl who had never felt responsibility before. Under the stress, there appeared the first signs of mental disability that in later years changed her whole personality.



The Lincoln's first home was a room in a boarding house in Springfield. After a year there, and another year in a rented home, they moved into a modest house of their own, the famous house on 8th Street, in which they lived until they left Springfield in 1861.

In 1846 Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress and Mary and the children spent a winter with him in Washington. It was her first taste of Washington social life although, as wife of a poor Congressman from the West with two small children, there was not much opportunity for her to enjoy it. Lincoln returned to his law practice in Springfield after the next election.

He was back in politics in 1858, helping to form the new Republican party and he ran in the Illinois Senatorial race that year against Stephen Douglas. Though Lincoln lost the election, he made some valuable contacts and the series of debates, to which he had challenged Douglas, made him well known both in the party and in the nation. In 1860 Abraham Lincoln was chosen as Republican nominee for President of the United States and he won the election. The faith of the young Mary Todd in the future of the man she had chosen as her husband was amply justified.

The years Mrs. Lincoln spent in the White House were not happy ones, though the position fulfilled her high social ambitions. It was not easy for the woman who had been Mary Todd of Kentucky to make a place in Washington during the Civil War years, despite her ample social qualifications, because in a city of Southerners she was scorned as a traitor to her Southern birth. Domestic bereavement and the horrors of war robbed the White House of many

social pleasures. Apparently to compensate for the frustrations of her social life, Mrs. Lincoln started an orgy of spending which lasted for the whole four years and for which she was widely criticized.

When President Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, Mary Todd Lincoln was shattered in mental and physical health and the next 17 years held nothing but sorrow for her. With her son Tad she traveled constantly in search of health and peace of mind, tortured with distorted ideas of her financial situation. After Tad's untimely death in 1871, she slipped over into a world of illusion in which she was always pursued by fear of poverty and assassination. A misunderstood and tragic figure, she passed away in 1882 at her sister's home in Springfield, Illinois, the same house from which she had walked as the bride of Abraham Lincoln, 40 years before.



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## DRESS OF MARY TODD LINCOLN

First Lady, 1861-1865

The dress of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln is made of royal purple velvet with the tight bodice and full skirt of the hoop-skirt period. Mrs. Lincoln's fondness for clothes is displayed in the excellent taste she used in selecting her wardrobe. Shades of lavender and purple were her favorite colors and this dress is of a deep, rich hue. The seams of the dress, skirt and bodice, the hem of the skirt, and the bottom of the bodice are piped with narrow white satin cord. The neck of the dress is trimmed with an elaborate fichu of black Alençon lace with a white edge and the short puffed sleeves are made of white net and Alençon lace.

Accompanying this dress is a fan made of purple taffeta and a purple parasol, which was carried with the dress, is also displayed in the case. The parasol was an indispensable accessory of dress of the period and seldom did a lady go for a promenade or a drive without her tiny parasol.

The wreath of flowers which encircles the head of Mrs. Lincoln's figure recalls her favorite style of coiffure.



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## ADMINISTRATION OF CALVIN COOLIDGE

### GRACE GOODHUE COOLIDGE

Grace Goodhue was born in Burlington, Vermont in 1879 the daughter of Andrew and Lemira B. Goodhue. Her childhood, that of an only child, was uneventful in the little Green Mountain town. It was at this time she first heard of a school for teaching deaf children in Northampton, Massachusetts from one of her father's friends and she determined to share this charitable work. Toward this end she attended the University of Vermont, from which she graduated in 1902 with her degree. She went to Northampton that same year to teach at the Clarke School for the Deaf.

Calvin Coolidge met Grace Goodhue when she was a teacher at Clarke School, when she was just in her early twenties, a lovely girl. They met casually, went to the same boating, picnicking, dancing, whist-club set, composed largely of members of the Congregational Church. They became engaged in the early summer of 1905 and were married in October. For nearly a year the Coolidges lived in a boarding house, then they moved into half of a double house two weeks before their first baby was born. Mrs. Coolidge ran the little house herself, doing all her own housework, and she budgeted household expenses well within the income of a struggling young lawyer in a small town.

To Grace Coolidge may be credited a full and proper share in her husband's rise in politics. She worked hard, kept up appearances, did her part in

town activities, attended her church and played the game of the politician's wife. She supplemented her husband's natural shyness with a gay friendliness and managed the social life of the small family to offset the lack of social graces enjoyed by Mr. Coolidge.

Four years later another son was born to the Coolidges, while Calvin Coolidge was Mayor of Northampton. While he was a member of the State Legislature and State Senate, and later as Lieutenant Governor, the Coolidge family remained in their small home in Northampton, while Calvin rented a dollar and a half room in Boston and came home on weekends. When he was elected Governor, he continued to follow the same routine, as Massachusetts was without an executive residence. On high days and holidays, Mrs. Coolidge came down to Boston, but for the most part she remained in Northampton with her boys.

They were still living in their duplex apartment in Northampton when they went to Washington in 1921, when Calvin Coolidge was elected Vice President of the United States. As wife of the Vice President, Grace Coolidge went from the quiet life of a housewife to which she was accustomed into the complexity of Washington social life, and she adapted herself so quickly that she became the most popular woman in the nation's capital. Much of her popularity was due to her warm friendliness, her zest for life, and her innate simplicity. She was quite a pretty woman, with sparkling brown eyes and brown hair, a nice figure, and a pleasant smile.

With the death of President Harding in 1923, Grace Goodhue Coolidge became the wife of the President of the United States and the First Lady of

the White House. The social life of the White House instituted by Mrs. Coolidge was simple but dignified. Her time and her friendliness now belonged to the nation and she was generous with both. Even under the sorrow of the sudden and tragic death of her youngest son at the age of 14, she remained strong and heroic, never allowing her personal grief to interfere with her duties as First Lady. Her charm, tact and gaiety made Mrs. Coolidge one of the most popular hostesses of the White House, and she left Washington in 1929 with the nation's respect and love.

When the Coolidges left the White House they returned to their duplex house in Northampton. Mrs. Coolidge resumed her church activities, was associated with the Red Cross and other organized community enterprises. They later bought a large house on the outskirts of the town, a place known as "The Beeches". In 1931 Mrs. Coolidge was voted one of America's greatest living women, and she was presented a gold medal by the National Institute of Social Sciences for her "fine personal influence exerted as First Lady of the Land". Calvin Coolidge died at "The Beeches" in 1933.

Mrs. Coolidge maintained her home on the outskirts of Northampton until her death in 1957.



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## DRESS OF MRS. CALVIN COOLIDGE

First Lady, 1923 - 1929

The dress which represents the administration of Calvin Coolidge in the collection is typical of the style of the period in which the dress was worn. The only representative of the flapper period in the First Ladies' collection, Mrs. Coolidge's dress always causes much comment among visitors to the Museum.

The bodice of the dress is perfectly plain with a low neckline and with the waistline lowered almost to the hips. The low waistline is encircled by a rhinestone belt which buckles at the front of the dress. The bodice blouses out a bit at the waist. The skirt is made of three tiers of velvet. The pointed train, which is yards long from the shoulder straps, adds to the formal appearance of the dress.

This dress is one of the most typical of the period of fashion it represents in the whole collection. American women, at this time, dressed in short dresses for all occasions and evening dresses did not become ankle length again until the 1930's. Mrs. Coolidge's good taste is displayed in the truly lovely quality and color of the rose chiffon velvet out of which the dress is made. The slippers which were worn with the dress are of the same rose velvet with gold heels and rhinestone buckles. Mrs. Coolidge placed her Pi Beta Phi Sorority pin upon the left breast of the figure soon after the dress was installed in the case.

In 1945 Mrs. Coolidge sent to the Museum a string of pearls and an ecru lace handkerchief to improve the installation of the dress.



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## ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

### ANNA ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born in New York City in 1884. She was the daughter of Elliott Roosevelt, a younger brother of President Theodore Roosevelt, and Anna Hall. Eleanor was early handicapped by a lack of beauty and an awkward shyness which set her apart from her distinguished, elegant and charming family. When her mother died in 1892, the children went to live with Grandmother Hall and her father died only two years later. From that time young Eleanor's companions were her aunts and uncles, years older than she, without much companionship of children her own age. Most of her elementary education was received at home, and when she was 15 she was sent to school in England. It was Eleanor's first chance to develop without the constant supervision of her family. Her confidence grew with her contact with other girls and she learned to widen her activities and interests until she became interested in everyone and everything.

The return to America after graduation brought Eleanor back to a life circumscribed by the interest of New York society - a life in which she found little interest and pleasure. Among her few close friends was a distant cousin, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whom she remembered from childhood parties. In the Autumn of 1903, when Eleanor was nineteen, she and Franklin became engaged.



They were married in 1905 while Franklin was a law student at Columbia University. The first years of married life were spent with Franklin Roosevelt's mother in Hyde Park.

In 1910 Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to the New York State Senate, and his family moved to Albany for sessions of the legislature. Here Eleanor started her long career as political helpmate of her husband, and home became a center for Roosevelt's political associates. The years in Albany gave her practice for the political life of Washington when her husband became Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1913. When the World War began in 1917, in addition to her home duties, the care of her children, and her social life, Mrs. Roosevelt devoted long hours to volunteer war work.

In 1921 Franklin Roosevelt was stricken with poliomyelitis, and all of Mrs. Roosevelt's energy and time were devoted to her husband's care. In an effort to awaken his interest in politics again, she became active in the women's division of the State Democratic Committee and also became an associate member of the Women's Trade Union. Meanwhile, her days were busy caring for her family of five children and seeing that their life remained normal despite their father's illness.

With his wife's encouragement, Franklin Roosevelt again entered politics and was elected Governor of New York in 1928. From that day to the day of his death, Mrs. Roosevelt's life was dedicated to helping her husband, and she became eyes, ears, and legs for him, a trusted and tireless reporter. Her own social work continued with the establishment of the Val Kill furniture factory at Hyde Park to give employment to men of the neighborhood, and she became at the same time part owner, vice principal, and teacher at Todhunter School for girls.

When Mrs. Roosevelt came to the White House in 1933, she understood the social conditions of the country better than any former First Lady. She had developed a social consciousness, from her work in New York State, which resulted in an eagerness to work and aid in the correction of poor social conditions. As the wife of the President, she traveled to all parts of the country to bring her husband useful information and became interested in every phase of social reform. She kept in touch with the people of the country through a daily syndicated column, "My Day", in which she expressed her opinions on every subject. This made her a tempting target for enemies of her husband, but her integrity, her graciousness, and her sincerity of purpose endeared her personally to thousands of persons all over the globe.

She did not shirk official entertainments at the White House and until the war year of 1941 she entertained at teas, receptions, and state dinners with the charming friendliness and experience acquired during her husband's distinguished career.

During World War II Eleanor Roosevelt's duties included an official position as assistant director of the Office of Civilian Defense, expeditions to visit service men on two war fronts, and acting hostess of the White House during visits from political and military leaders of our allies.

Mrs. Roosevelt left the White House in 1945 after her husband's death and returned to a small home which she maintained on the Hyde Park estate. From there she continued to be influential in many reform movements. In 1945 she was appointed U.S. representative in the general assembly of the United Nations and

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt

-4-

later became chairman of the Commission for Human Rights. In addition to her daily newspaper column, Mrs. Roosevelt published several books telling the story of her life and her husband's career.

Eleanor Roosevelt died on November 7, 1962, in New York City and was buried beside her husband at Hyde Park. President Kennedy and former Presidents Eisenhower and Truman were at her burial, an honorable testimonial to Mrs. Roosevelt's humanitarian contributions.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

DRESS WORN BY MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

First Lady, 1933 - 1945

Mrs. Roosevelt is represented in our collection by her third inaugural gown, a regal looking dress made of warm tinted satin. The color of this gown varies from ivory to a deep peach color, according to the light in which it is viewed. The skirt is cut on the bias with a drape in the center front. The sweetheart neckline of the gown and its intricately cut sleeves are trimmed with pearls tinted to match the material of the dress. A double train from the shoulders, narrow at the top and widening to several yards at the hem, falls into the full skirt of the gown to drape into folds like one single voluminous train. The simple, pleasing lines of this modern dress make it worthy of comparison with the finest of the period costumes.

# THE GOWN OF MRS. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

as displayed in the  
United States National Museum  
Smithsonian Institution

By MARGARET BROWN KLAPTHOR

[Supplement to "The Dresses of the First Ladies of the White House," by  
Margaret W. Brown, published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1952.]



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

1958

MAMIE DOUD EISENHOWER

MAMIE GENEVA DOUD, the second child of John Sheldon Doud and Elivera Carlson Doud, was born on November 14, 1896, in the town of Boone, Iowa, where her father was in the livestock commission business. When she was nine months old the family moved to Cedar Rapids, where she spent her earliest childhood and started school.

In 1904, when Mamie was still a little girl, her father retired and the family moved to Pueblo, Colo., settling in Denver in 1905 in a substantial brick house on Lafayette Street. Mamie received her elementary education at a public school and then attended Miss Walcott's, a private school for the daughters of Denver's families.

In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Doud took the family to San Antonio, Tex., for the winter, in the hope that the milder climate would be beneficial to Mamie's older sister. They liked that city so well that they took a house there for their winter residence. It was in San Antonio in October 1915 that Mamie Doud met Dwight D. Eisenhower, a young second lieutenant who was serving his first tour of duty at Fort Sam Houston. She was a pretty and popular young girl of eighteen. It was not long, however, until "Ike" Eisenhower was a favorite not only with Mamie but with her family, too, and on St. Valentine's Day 1916 they became officially engaged. They were married at the Doud home in Denver on July 1, 1916.

For many years Mamie Eisenhower's life followed the pattern of other Army wives, at a succession of Army posts in the continental United States, and duty in Panama, France, and the Philippines, each move another rung

up the ladder for her husband, with increasing duties and responsibilities for her. Their first child, a son, who was born in San Antonio in September 1917 and named Doud Dwight, died of scarlet fever in 1921 when the Eisenhowers were stationed at Camp Meade, Md. The second boy, John Sheldon Doud Eisenhower, was born in Denver in 1922 during his father's tour of duty in Panama.

By 1941 Eisenhower was a colonel, and promotions came quickly after the war started. During her husband's duty at the Pentagon early in the war, Mamie moved to Washington. When he went overseas to assume the command of the European Theater of Operations, she took a small apartment in the Capital for the duration of the war.

The Eisenhowers remained in the Washington area until his retirement from the Army in 1948. They then spent two years in New York while General Eisenhower served as President of Columbia University. It was during this period that they purchased the farm at Gettysburg, Pa., which was the first home they had ever owned and a source of joy and relaxation to them during the ensuing years.

In January 1951 General Eisenhower was assigned the command of NATO forces in France. Mamie was again confronted with the problem of making a home in a foreign country. At the villa at Marnes La Coquette she assumed the duties of hostess to prominent people from all over the world and had her first experience at entertaining according to diplomatic protocol.

This was excellent practice for the next assignment, which was as First Lady of the



MAMIE DOUD EISENHOWER

The dress Mrs. Eisenhower is wearing in this photograph is her second inaugural gown. Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Eisenhower.





## ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

White House when Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected President of the United States in 1953. It is seldom that a First Lady has been so warmly welcomed by the American people. After years of deliberately choosing to stay in the background, Mrs. Eisenhower found herself in the full glare of the spotlight, and she reacted with the poise and dignity of one well suited to the position. Her genuine liking for people and her evident enjoyment of the many social and official obligations endeared her to the public. Her friendly personality and informality help to dispel the

formality which often surrounds such functions as state dinners and official receptions. The Eisenhowers spend as much leisure time as possible at their Gettysburg farm.

Perhaps Mrs. Eisenhower's outstanding characteristic is her femininity, which is evidenced in her love of home, her devotion to her family, and her interest in clothes. Her deep blue eyes, brown hair arranged with the now famous "Mamie bangs," and vivid smile have become as well known to the American public as her husband's familiar smile.

### DRESS OF MAMIE DOUD EISENHOWER

*First Lady of the White House, 1953-*

Mrs. Eisenhower's first inaugural ball gown was made by the New York designer Nettie Rosenstein and purchased through Neiman-Marcus of Dallas. It is of peau-de-soie, Renoir pink with a mauve undertone, embroidered with over 2,000 pink rhinestones. The dress has matching taffeta and crinoline petticoats under the bouffant skirt. The long pink gloves and shoes are of matching fabric. The evening bag, also designed by Nettie Rosenstein, is of matching pink silk fabric on a silver frame and is solidly encrusted with 3,456 pink rhinestones, pink pearls, and beads.

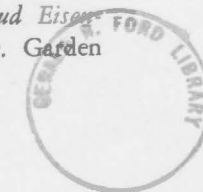
With the dress Mrs. Eisenhower wore costume jewelry designed and made for her by Trifari. The triple-strand choker necklace is of simulated Orientique pearls interspersed with round brilliants that are called rondels. Mrs. Eisenhower prefers button earrings, and these are fashioned like snowflakes. The bracelet is a matching piece. The set was presented to her in a satin-lined white-kid

box tooled in gold with the words "Mamie Doud Eisenhower, January 20, 1953," inscribed on it.

The complete ensemble of dress, accessories, and jewelry was presented to the public for the first time when Mrs. Eisenhower opened the First Ladies Hall on May 24, 1955. The ensemble is exhibited in the period setting that represents the East Room of the White House as it has looked during most of the twentieth century. The soft pink color of the dress looks especially attractive against the white and gold color scheme that predominates in the room.

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# THE GOWN OF MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY

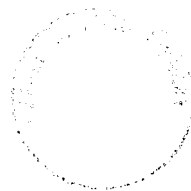
as displayed in the  
United States National Museum  
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By MARGARET BROWN KLAPTHOR

[Supplement to "The Dresses of the First Ladies of the White House" by  
Margaret W. Brown, published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1952.]



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
1963





JACQUELINE BOUVIER KENNEDY

JACQUELINE LEE BOUVIER was born on July 28, 1930, in Southampton, Long Island, N.Y., the first child of John Vernon Bouvier III and his attractive wife, Janet Lee Bouvier. Mr. Bouvier was a member of the New York Stock Exchange, and he and his wife lived in New York in the winter and Long Island in the summer.

Jacqueline's formal education began when she was sent to Miss Chapin's School, a New York private school where she received a good basic education. Throughout her school days Jacqueline was an exceptionally bright student. She learned to read before she was six years old, and her retentive memory and the ease with which she absorbed knowledge, especially of those subjects in which she was interested, made her stand out from her group in each successive step of her education. Side by side with her intellectual development were her intense interest and increasing proficiency in horsemanship. Under her mother's expert guidance she began to ride almost as soon as she could walk, and at a very young age she was an active and competent participant in the many horse shows which were important to the social life of the Long Island community.

Even during these early years Jacqueline's interest in the arts was evident. She began to write poetry and short stories, which she illustrated with her own imaginative drawings. Her interest in the dance was fostered by ballet lessons and a library on the subject which she had started when she was very young.

In 1942 Jacqueline's mother married Hugh D. Auchincloss, and their winter home became a handsome estate named Merrywood, located in Virginia across the Potomac from Washington, with summers spent at Hammersmith Farm in Newport, Rhode Island.

In Washington Jacqueline attended Holton Arms for two years; then at the age of fifteen she went to Miss Porter's School at Farmington, Connecticut. She made her debut in the summer of 1948, the year she graduated from Miss Porter's, and was honored with the title of Debutante of the year.

In the fall she entered Vassar College. The next summer she made the Grand Tour and discovered the charms of Europe. In fact, she was so delighted with her experiences that she determined to spend her junior year of college studying in France at the Sorbonne. The year she spent there living with a French family was to have a great influence on her life. It gave her a great sympathy for the people of foreign countries, especially the French, and broadened her cultural tastes and interests far beyond those of the average American girl of her age.

The next year Jacqueline continued her college work at George Washington University, and it was during this year that she won *Vogue* magazine's nation-wide Prix de Paris contest which offered the winner a six months' job on *Vogue* in Paris and a similar time at the New York editorial offices. She declined the prize because it meant still more time away from home.

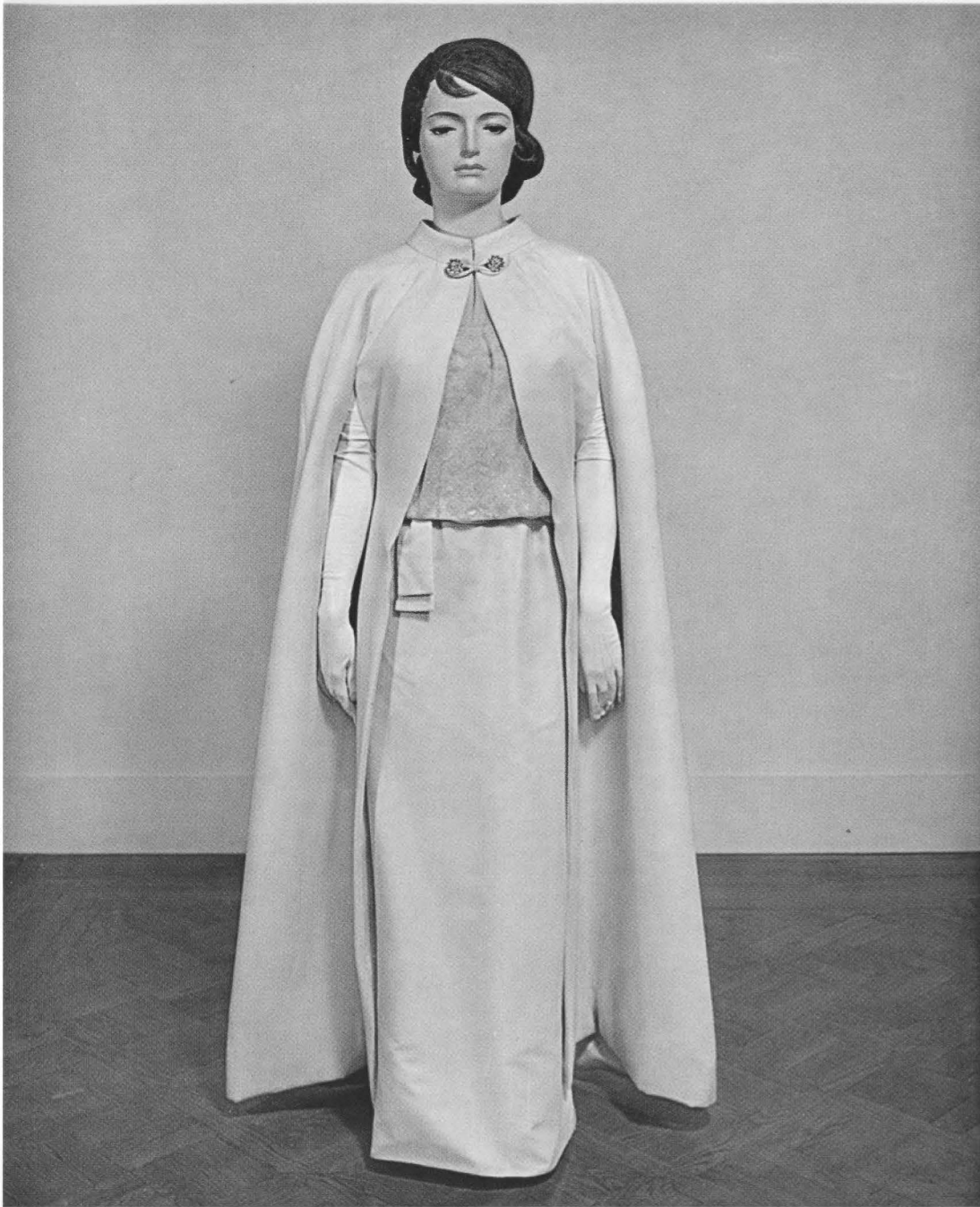
In 1952 Jacqueline became inquiring photographer on the *Washington Times Herald* newspaper. The job required skill with a professional camera, which Jacqueline soon acquired, and an ability to stimulate opinions on topical questions from persons of every age and walk of life on the local Washington scene.

In June 1951 Jacqueline met Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts at a dinner party. She was then twenty-two and the Senator was thirty-five. Despite their mutual interest in each other, their courtship was complicated



JACQUELINE BOUVIER KENNEDY

Photograph by Mark Shaw; courtesy of the White House.



## ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

by the busy careers in which they were individually involved. More than two years later their large wedding took place at Newport on September 13, 1953.

After her marriage Jacqueline Kennedy adapted herself to the new role of being the wife of one of the Nation's youngest and most energetic political figures. Their first child, Caroline, was born in 1957, and the second, John, Jr., was born after John Kennedy's election to the Presidency in 1960.

With the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy in 1961, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy stepped into the most difficult career of the many which have already enriched her life. To the role she has brought beauty, intelligence, and taste. Her knowledge of languages and appreciation of world cultures have been an invaluable asset to a First Lady

who is serving at a time of tense international crises. Her interest in the arts has inspired an attention to cultural matters never before experienced at the national level. She has devoted a great part of her time and energy to the interests of young people and the encouragement of the arts. As First Lady, she has personally arranged for visiting heads of state to be entertained in the White House with programs presented by the finest performers. Noteworthy too is her continuing personal effort to make the White House a museum of history and decorative arts as well as a family residence of elegance and charm.

Despite her many private and public interests Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy today still considers her role as wife and mother the most important of her many obligations.

### DRESS OF JACQUELINE BOUVIER KENNEDY

*First Lady of the White House, 1961—*

The white silk dress which Jacqueline Kennedy wore to the inaugural ball on January 20, 1961, was a striking complement to her dark hair and eyes and her slim, youthful figure. The dress was made by designer Ethel Frankau of the Custom Salon, Bergdorf Goodman, of New York City, based on ideas and sketches from Mrs. Kennedy. It is made of white peau d'ange (a very sheer silk, the French name of which may literally be translated as "angel's skin") with a bodice embroidered in silver thread which is veiled with a sheer white chiffon overblouse.

The dress has a very slim, floor-length skirt made of peau d'ange. The silk was veiled with white chiffon giving it a soft shimmering effect. The collarless, sleeveless blouse, richly embroidered in metallic silver and brilliants, is fitted, but the transparent full overblouse

covering it puffs out like a cloud at the hip-line.

With the dress Mrs. Kennedy wore a floor-length cape of the same silk peau d'ange veiled with a triple layer of silk chiffon, which is fastened at the neck with an embroidered frog on the military collar.

Her costume was completed with twenty buttons, white, glacé kid gloves, and white silk opera pumps with medium heels. With this ensemble Mrs. Kennedy wore handsome diamond pendant earrings.

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# SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON

CLAUDIA (LADY BIRD) TAYLOR JOHNSON

When Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson became First Lady of the United States in 1963, she told reporters that her role "must emerge in deeds and not in words". During her administration, the "deeds" prompted many words to describe the petite brunette First Lady in varying ways such as "The Great Society's most effective translator", "America's Green Thumb", and "the symbol of the beautification movement". Warm, human, and compassionate are phrases that highlighted the descriptions of Mrs. Johnson.

This is the Mrs. Johnson who emerged through speeches, tree-plantings, hostessing Heads of State or youth groups at the White House, and some half a dozen trips on her own each year, into various parts of the country to urge Americans to make their land more attractive and liveable. By serving as Honorary Chairman of Project Headstart, she demonstrated her deep concern with the needs of the small children of the nation. When the President urged Americans to rally behind a national program of conservation and beauty, Mrs. Johnson organized a Committee for a More Beautiful Capital, an example for civic beautification committees throughout the land.

To promote one of the President's important objectives -- a greater role for women -- she encouraged women to lend a hand in shaping world understanding. She worked to define the role of women today which she considered to be "the right to participate fully -- whether in jobs, professions, or the political life of the community". She felt that her

own role was to be preeminently a woman, a wife, a mother, a thinking citizen.

Mrs. Johnson was born in Karnack, Texas, on December 22, 1912, the daughter of Thomas Jefferson Taylor, a small town merchant-landowner, and Minnie Patillo Taylor. The pages of history may list her as Claudia Alta Taylor, but the First Lady became universally known as "Lady Bird" or simply "Bird", a name given to her as a child. Mrs. Johnson received a Bachelor of Arts on 1933 from the University of Texas and a Bachelor of Journalism in 1934. Shortly thereafter, she met Lyndon Baines Johnson, Secretary to Texas Congressman Richard Kleberg, and became his bride on November 17, 1934. She was quickly introduced into the ways of Washington life and spent the next 26 years in the public eye as the wife of a Congressman, Senator, and Vice-President. Two daughters, Lynda Bird and Luci Baines were born during those early years in Washington. Mrs. Johnson entered the White House with a long record of having been a partner in the political life of her husband. The two Johnson daughters were married during their father's Administration with Lynda's marriage to Charles S. Robb taking place in the East Room of the White House. Mrs. Johnson left the White House in 1969 and moved back to the LBJ ranch in Johnson City, Texas with her husband. There she devotes her time to her home, the Johnson Library and to her financial interest in the television business. Her first task on leaving the White House was to work on a book about her years spent there which is titled White House Diary. It was published in 1970.



*Information From the*

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CLAUDIA (LADY BIRD) TAYLOR JOHNSON

First Lady, 1963 - 1969

The inaugural ball gown worn by Mrs. Johnson on January 20, 1965, is made of jonquil yellow double woven satin. The gown, cut with classic simplicity was designed by John Moore, the American couturier, and was bought through Neiman-Marcus of Texas. The coat, designed to be worn with the dress, is of matching fabric and has a standing collar and three-quarter length sleeves trimmed with natural sable cuffs. With the gown Mrs. Johnson wore yellow satin pumps, long white gloves and a single strand of pearls and she carried an envelope handbag of the dress fabric.





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## DRESS OF PATRICIA RYAN NIXON

First Lady, 1969 -

On January 20, 1969, Mrs. Richard M. Nixon attended the Inaugural Ball wearing a mimosa silk satin gown with a long-sleeve bolero jacket. The gown has a bell-shaped skirt, a sleeveless bodice, and a small stand-up collar and narrow cummerbund. The jacket, collar and cummerbund are all heavily embroidered with Byzantine scrolls of gold and silver bullion and embellished with hand-set Austrian crystal jewels.

The gown was designed by Karen Stark of Harvey Berin. To complete the ensemble, Mrs. Nixon wore matching silk shoes, forearm length gloves, and carried a small matching box handbag.



*A Bibliography From the*

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## SELECTED READINGS ON THE FIRST LADIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE

Brown, Margaret W., The Dresses of the First Ladies of the White House, Washington, 1952. (This is the Smithsonian Institution's own publication about the famous collection of gowns. Each of the gowns is described in detail and illustrated in color. Also included are a short biography and a picture of each First Lady.) (OUT OF PRINT)

Bassett, Margaret, Profiles and Portraits of American Presidents and Their Wives, Bond Wheelwright Co., Freeport, Me., 1969.

Holloway, Laura C., The Ladies of the White House, Funk & Wagnalls, New York, 1886.

Jensen, Amy LaFollette, The White House and Its Thirty-five Families, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1970.

Melick, Arden Davis, Wives of the Presidents, Hammond, Inc., New Jersey, 1972.

Sadler, Christine, America's First Ladies, Hastings House, New York, 1948.

### BOOKLETS:

The White House: An Historic Guide. Published by the White House Historical Association, 1634 I Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006

The Living White House. Published by the White House Historical Association.

### ALSO:

The First Ladies Hall. Published by the Smithsonian Institution Press, Publications Distribution Section, Washington, D.C., 1973. (\$1.50)



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

72-2401

MARTHA CUSTIS WASHINGTON (Mrs. George Washington)  
First Lady, 1789-1797.

Dress made of salmon-pink ribbed silk with a handpainted design of wild flowers and insects of North America. Brown satin bag made and embroidered by Mrs. Washington.

72-2402

ABIGAIL SMITH ADAMS (Mrs. John Adams)  
First Lady, 1797-1801.

Dark blue Canton crepe dress trimmed with a border of Chinese embroidery. The brooch contains locks of the hair of John Adams, Abigail Adams and their son John Quincy Adams.

72-2403

MARTHA JEFFERSON RANDOLPH (Mrs. Thomas Mann Randolph)  
Daughter of President Thomas Jefferson and First Lady, 1801-1809.

Black wool shawl with a paisley border. A dress worn by Mrs. Randolph has not been located.

72-2404

DOLLEY PAYNE TODD MADISON (Mrs. James Madison)  
First Lady, 1809-1817.

Yellow satin Empire style dress decorated with Chinese embroidery of butterflies, insects and flowers. Worn in 1816 to a New Year's Day reception at the White House. The sandalwood fan belonged to Mrs. Madison and the turban head-dress was a costume accessory characteristic of Mrs. Madison.

72-2405

ELIZABETH KORTRIGHT MONROE (Mrs. James Monroe)  
First Lady, 1817-1825.

Dress of the 18th century sacque style made of cream color taffeta brocaded in a floral design and trimmed with Point de Venise lace and fly fringe. A Watteau pleated back and a matching underskirt complete the outfit. The topaz necklace was purchased by President Monroe when he was Minister to France.





72-2406

MARIA MONROE GOUVERNEUR (Mrs. Samuel L. Gouverneur)  
Daughter of President James Monroe, 1817-1825.

Dress made in France of blue taffeta embroidered with wheat straw.

72-2407

LOUISA CATHERINE ADAMS (Mrs. John Quincy Adams)  
First Lady, 1825-1829.

Late Empire style dress made of white net over white satin and trimmed with satin bows and silver braid. The linen handkerchief belonged to Mrs. Adams.

72-2408

\*EMILY DONELSON (Mrs. Andrew Jackson Donelson)  
Niece of President Andrew Jackson and First Lady,  
1829-1836.

Bodice from her Inaugural Ball gown made of gold satin brocaded in rosebuds and violets. The skirt is a restoration decorated with lace owned by the wife of President Jackson.

72-2409

SARAH YORKE JACKSON (Mrs. Andrew Jackson, Jr.)  
Wife of the adopted son of President Andrew Jackson  
and First Lady, 1836-1837.

Wedding dress made of white satin and mull embroidered in a white floral design.

72-2410

ANGELICA SINGLETON VAN BUREN (Mrs. Abram Van Buren)  
Daughter-in-law of President Martin Van Buren and  
First Lady, 1837-1841.

Blue velvet dress owned by Mrs. Abram Van Buren. The dress is exhibited with its original hoop foundation and lace bertha.

72-2411

\*JANE IRWIN FINDLAY (Mrs. James Findlay)  
Mother-in-law of Mrs. William Henry Harrison Jr.  
Family friend of President and Mrs. William Henry Harrison.  
First Lady, 1841.

Inaugural Ball gown made of brown velvet with leg-of-mutton sleeves.

\* Denotes Inaugural Dresses



72-2412

JULIA GARDINER TYLER (Mrs. John Tyler)  
Second wife of President John Tyler and First Lady,  
1844-1845.

Dress made of sheer white mull embroidered with silver thread and silk floss in a flower design in rainbow colors. Worn in 1841 when Miss Gardiner was presented at the Court of Louis Philippe of France.

72-2413

\*SARAH CHILDRESS POLK (Mrs. James K. Polk)  
First Lady, 1845-1849

Inaugural Ball gown made of blue ribbed silk brocaded in a poinsettia design and trimmed with satin ribbons and lace.

72-2414

BETTY TAYLOR BLISS DANDRIDGE (Mrs. Philip Dandridge)  
Daughter of President Zachary Taylor and First Lady,  
1849-1850.

Daytime dress made of greenish-brown grenadine with a plaid border. This dress is the last in the collection to be made entirely by hand.

72-2415

ABIGAIL POWERS FILLMORE (Mrs. Millard Fillmore)  
First Lady, 1850-1853.

Lavender taffeta dress trimmed with matching flounce brocaded in a lavender and white floral design. The handkerchief ring is an interesting costume accessory of the period.

72-2416

JANE APPLETON PIERCE (Mrs. Franklin Pierce)  
First Lady, 1853-1857.

Dress made of black tulle embroidered with silver thread over black taffeta. A tulle and silver jacket and a lace and net cap complete the ensemble.

72-2417

HARRIET LANE JOHNSTON (Mrs. Henry Elliott Johnston)  
Niece of President James Buchanan and First Lady,  
1857-1861.

Wedding gown made of white moire taffeta. The bodice is trimmed with white satin and Rose Point lace.

- 72-2412 JULIA GARDINER TYLER (Mrs. John Tyler)  
Second wife of President John Tyler and First Lady,  
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- Dress made of sheer white mull embroidered with silver thread and silk floss in a flower design in rainbow colors. Worn in 1841 when Miss Gardiner was presented at the Court of Louis Philippe of France.
- 72-2413 \*SARAH CHILDRESS POLK (Mrs. James K. Polk)  
First Lady, 1845-1849
- Inaugural Ball gown made of blue ribbed silk brocaded in a poinsettia design and trimmed with satin ribbons and lace.
- 72-2414 BETTY TAYLOR BLISS DANDRIDGE (Mrs. Philip Dandridge)  
Daughter of President Zachary Taylor and First Lady,  
1849-1850.
- Daytime dress made of greenish-brown grenadine with a plaid border. This dress is the last in the collection to be made entirely by hand.
- 72-2415 ABIGAIL POWERS FILLMORE (Mrs. Millard Fillmore)  
First Lady, 1850-1853.
- Lavender taffeta dress trimmed with matching flounce brocaded in a lavender and white floral design. The handkerchief ring is an interesting costume accessory of the period.
- 72-2416 JANE APPLETON PIERCE (Mrs. Franklin Pierce)  
First Lady, 1853-1857.
- Dress made of black tulle embroidered with silver thread over black taffeta. A tulle and silver jacket and a lace and net cap complete the ensemble.
- 72-2417 HARRIET LANE JOHNSTON (Mrs. Henry Elliott Johnston)  
Niece of President James Buchanan and First Lady,  
1857-1861.
- Wedding gown made of white moire taffeta. The bodice is trimmed with white satin and Rose Point lace.

- 72-2418 MARY TODD LINCOLN (Mrs. Abraham Lincoln)  
First Lady, 1861-1865.  
  
Purple velvet dress piped with white satin and trimmed with black and white lace and net. The matching fan was owned by Mrs. Lincoln.
- 72-2419 MARTHA JOHNSON PATTERSON (Mrs. David T. Patterson)  
First Lady, 1865-1869  
Daughter of President Andrew Johnson  
  
Woolen cloak in the style of an Arabian burnous ornamented with gold braid and tassels. A dress worn by Mrs. Patterson has not been located.
- 72-2420 \*JULIA DENT GRANT (Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant)  
First Lady, 1869-1877.  
  
Inaugural Ball gown worn in 1873 and made of silver brocade given to Mrs. Grant by the Emperor of China. The lace fichu was worn to the first Inaugural Ball in 1869.
- 72-2421 LUCY WEBB HAYES (Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes)  
First Lady, 1877-1881.  
  
Dress worn to a White House dinner given in honor of the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia in 1877. This elaborate dress of the bustle period is made of ivory and gold brocaded taffeta and ivory satin with lace, fringe, and bead trimmings.
- 72-2422 \*LUCRETIA RUDOLPH GARFIELD (Mrs. James A. Garfield)  
First Lady, 1881.  
  
Dress made of lavender-gray satin trimmed with ribbons, ruching and flounces of Brussels point lace. Worn to the Inaugural Ball held at the Smithsonian Institution.
- 72-2423 MARY ARTHUR McELROY (Mrs. John McElroy)  
Sister of President Chester A. Arthur and First Lady, 1881-1885.  
  
Satin damask dress with a morning glory design and trimmed with sequins and steel and jet beads. The original gray color of the gown has mellowed to an off-white.

72-2424

ROSE ELIZABETH CLEVELAND

Sister of President Grover Cleveland and First Lady, 1885-1886.

Dress made of garnet silk velvet with panels of pink faille and silver and gold braid trim.

72-2425

\*CAROLINE SCOTT HARRISON (Mrs. Benjamin Harrison)  
First Lady, 1889-1892.

Inaugural Ball gown of American design and manufacture. The bodice and train are silver gray faille and the front skirt panels are silver satin brocaded with a burr oak design. Between the panels are pleats of apricot-color silk veiled in lace. The dress is trimmed in silver and gold fringe.

72-2426

\*MARY HARRISON McKEE (Mrs. James R. McKee)  
Daughter of President Benjamin Harrison and First Lady, 1892-1893.

Inaugural gown made of parchment-color satin brocaded with a goldenrod design in olive and gold. The gold taffeta skirt panels and the apple-green velvet neck and sleeve edging are trimmed with amber and silver beads. The underskirt is apple-green velvet.

72-2427

FRANCES FOLSOM CLEVELAND (Mrs. Grover Cleveland)  
First Lady, 1886-1889 and 1893-1897.

Dress made of black satin and iridescent taffeta trimmed with jet beads, black sequins, and a black overlay brocade. A band of fur borders the skirt.

72-2428

\*IDA SAXTON McKINLEY (Mrs. William McKinley)  
First Lady, 1897-1901.

Inaugural Ball gown made of heavy white satin trimmed with pearl embroidery and Rose Point lace.

72-2429

\*EDITH KERMIT ROOSEVELT (Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt)  
First Lady, 1901-1909.

Dress worn to the Inaugural Ball in 1905. Made of robin's egg blue satin brocaded with a design of swallows and gold pin-wheels of ostrich feathers. The painted paper fan belonged to Mrs. Roosevelt.



72-2430

\*HELEN HERRON TAFT (Mrs. William H. Taft)  
First Lady, 1909-1913.

Inaugural Ball gown of the Empire revival style made of white silk chiffon embroidered in Japan. The embroidery is a pattern of goldenrod in silver thread and crystal beads. Lace trims the bodice.

72-2431

ELLEN AXSON WILSON (Mrs. Woodrow Wilson)  
First Lady, 1913-1915.

Dress made of white velvet brocaded with a rose design over an underskirt of white satin and lace. Trimmed with net, rhinestones, steel beads, seed pearls and large baroque pearls.

72-2432

EDITH BOLLING WILSON (Mrs. Woodrow Wilson)  
Second wife of President Woodrow Wilson and First Lady, 1915-1921.

Dress worn on the trip to the Peace Conference in Paris in 1918. The skirt and the tunic overdress are made of black velvet with tulle sleeves and neckline. Trimmed with jet sequins, bead tassels and green beads.

72-2433

FLORENCE KLING HARDING (Mrs. Warren G. Harding)  
First Lady, 1921-1923.

Dress made of white satin trimmed with net, rhinestones, crystal beads, and baroque pearls. The white satin train is trimmed with black net. Worn to a reception at the Pan American Building in Washington, D.C. soon after the Inauguration.

72-2434

GRACE GOODHUE COOLIDGE (Mrs. Calvin Coolidge)  
First Lady, 1923-1929.

Rose chiffon velvet dress of the flapper period trimmed with a rhinestone belt.

72-2435

LOU HENRY HOOVER (Mrs. Herbert Hoover)  
First Lady, 1929-1933.

Pale green satin dress with rhinestone shoulder clips. The silver filigree lorgnette was also owned by Mrs. Hoover.



- 72-2436 \*ANNA ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt)  
First Lady, 1933-1945.  
  
Dress worn to the third Inaugural Ball in 1941 and made of flesh color satin trimmed with pearls of the same color.
- 72-2437 BESS WALLACE TRUMAN (Mrs. Harry S. Truman)  
First Lady, 1945-1953.  
  
Gown made of smoke gray mousseline de soie over light gray taffeta and white mousseline de soie. Worn to a State dinner given for Queen Juliana of the Netherlands in 1952.
- 72-2438 \*MAMIE DOUD EISENHOWER (Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower)  
First Lady, 1953-1961  
  
Inaugural Ball gown worn in 1953. Made of Renoir pink peau de soie embroidered with pink rhinestones. Accompanied by matching gloves, shoes and an evening bag trimmed with pink rhinestones, pearls and beads.
- 72-2439 \*JACQUELINE BOUVIER KENNEDY (Mrs. John F. Kennedy)  
First Lady, 1961-1963.  
  
Inaugural Ball gown and cape made of white peau d'ange veiled with white chiffon. The bodice is trimmed with silver embroidery.
- 72-2440 CLAUDIA (LADY BIRD) Taylor Johnson (Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson)  
First Lady, 1963-1969.  
  
Dress and coat ensemble worn to the Inaugural Ball in 1965. Made of jonquil yellow double-woven satin. The coat is trimmed with natural sable cuffs.
- 72-2441 \*PATRICIA RYAN NIXON (Mrs. Richard M. Nixon)  
First Lady, 1969 -  
  
Inaugural Ball gown and jacket made of mimosa yellow silk satin with the jacket, collar and cummerbund heavily embroidered with Byzantine scrolls of gold and silver bullion and hand-set Austrian crystal jewels.

\*Inaugural gown

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