

# *Contents*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vii
INTRODUCTION	3
THE PRESIDENTS	7
George Washington	7
John Adams	70
Thomas Jefferson	74
James Madison	83
James Monroe	87
John Quincy Adams	92
Andrew Jackson	95
Martin Van Buren	106
William Henry Harrison	108
John Tyler	113
James K. Polk	116
Zachary Taylor	119
Millard Fillmore	124
Franklin Pierce	127
James Buchanan	131
Abraham Lincoln	134
Andrew Johnson	152
Ulysses S. Grant	155
Rutherford B. Hayes	170
James A. Garfield	174
Chester A. Arthur	177

Grover Cleveland	180
Benjamin Harrison	185
William McKinley	188
Theodore Roosevelt	192
William Howard Taft	200
Woodrow Wilson	205
Warren G. Harding	211
Calvin Coolidge	214
Herbert Hoover	218
Franklin D. Roosevelt	223
Harry S. Truman	229
Dwight D. Eisenhower	235
John F. Kennedy	241
Lyndon B. Johnson	249
Richard M. Nixon	253
Gerald R. Ford	258
James E. Carter, Jr.	262
Ronald Reagan	266
George W. Bush	272
William J. Clinton	275
A SELECTION OF MUSEUMS, CHURCHES, AND OTHER SITES ASSOCIATED WITH PRESIDENTS	279
Museums	279
Churches	284
Other Sites	285
Washington, DC	289
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	292
Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia	298
COLLEGES ATTENDED BY THE PRESIDENTS	301
PRESIDENTIAL SITES, BY STATE AND COUNTRY	305
BIBLIOGRAPHY	339
INDEX	343

# *Introduction*

A few years ago the National Parks and Conservation Association sponsored a Presidential Sites Conference attended by National Park Service personnel, independent professional curators, historians, archivists and others interested in the preservation and maintenance of America's national treasures. At one seminar it was suggested that "someone" publish a cross-indexed directory of the hundreds of extant places associated with presidents – a reference volume enabling staff to learn of, and interact with, not only other sites and caretakers involved with "their" president, but with people involved with other presidents or with presidential history in general.

At that time I was researching my book *Homes and Libraries of the Presidents*, an interpretive guide devoted to eighty-eight presidential homes, libraries and museums that are open to the public, but I kept the idea of a directory in mind as I began to uncover hundreds of homes, statues, monuments, battlefields, colleges and other places associated with presidents.

Somehow I became that elusive “someone” to compile the directory of presidential sites.

I have now organized that information into a single volume, detailing each individual site with an address, telephone number and brief description – the result of my travels, consultation with presidential historians, librarians and state historical societies, and examination of The National Register of Historic Places, AAA travel booklets, the 1982 National Park Service Inventory and other sources.

Although this directory contains more than 1000 entries, it is undoubtedly still incomplete. Thus, readers are urged to amend, add to or otherwise edit the list by contacting me through the publisher. With that caveat, I believe the directory is accurate, though there are places where only legend or hearsay has placed a president in attendance. After all, who’s to say definitively that “George Washington’s Bathtub” in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia was really where he took the waters? Too, some information such as telephone numbers, is subject to change, and readers are strongly advised to call ahead before visiting. While I have indicated that a site may be “open,” hours and seasons are flexible. Also, telephone numbers are not provided for places privately owned or otherwise not open for visitation. Respect for that privacy is encouraged.

The directory is organized chronologically, by president. In the case of sites which may have an association with more than one president, the site is annotated in the section in which it first appears, with a reference to the initial annotation in later sections. In addition, there is a “general” section devoted to museums, churches and other sites involving multiple presidents – sites such as Mount Rushmore, the American Museum of Fly Fishing, or the Museum of American Political Life. I’ve also given focused attention to three geographic areas considered especially important in the development of America’s heritage, past and present – Colonial Williamsburg,

Philadelphia and Washington, DC. Each of these cities is filled with presidential history and treasures.

In addition to an index, I have included a listing of presidential sites by individual state for easy reference. With the exception of some birth and marriage sites, included for informational purposes, all of the places are extant, and many are open to the public. Every American is urged to visit these historic places so important to an understanding of our great national heritage. The forty-one men who have been Chief Executive came from different places and diverse backgrounds but each gave part of himself to our national character. Each added to the strength of our constitutional system. Thus these men represent the diversity of thought and political principle that has propelled our nation forward and made our form of government the envy of countries around the world. The places from whence they came must remain as they were, for to know them is to know ourselves.

A visit to any presidential birthplace, home or museum is rewarding. The host personnel, whether National Park Service rangers, professional curators, teenaged docents or senior citizen volunteers – are friendly, knowledgeable and anxious to enhance every visitor's enjoyment of the facility. More important, they want visitors to leave with a deeper awareness of the men who have led our nation through two centuries and helped achieve its preeminence in the world.

In any event, a visit to a presidential site, even a battlefield, helps to fill in a picture of the whole man, for these men, just like the rest of us, experienced disappointment and satisfaction, economic hardship and success, tragedy and joy. America's heritage is embodied in them. Calvin Coolidge once said . . .

*We draw our presidents from the people. It is a wholesome thing for them to return to the people. I came from them. I wish to be one of them again.*