

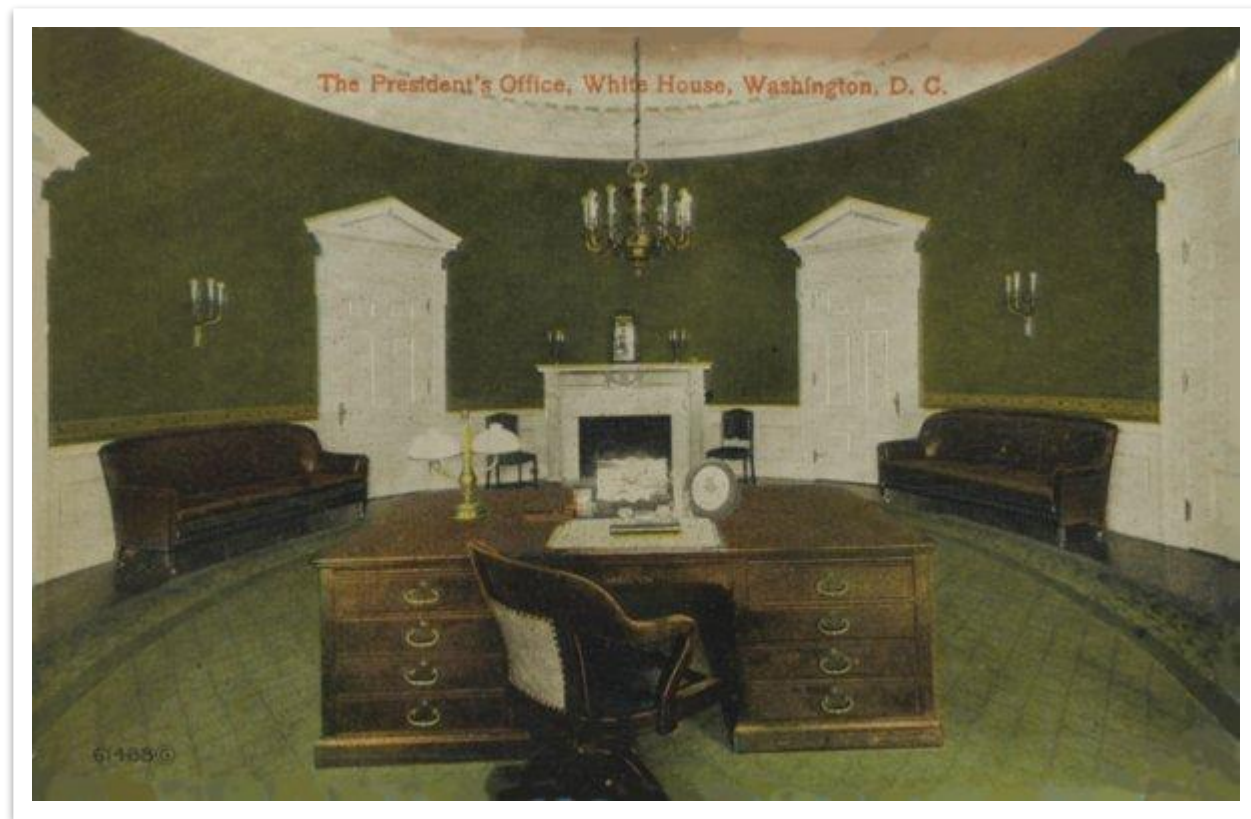
# The Oval Office



the official office of the President of the United States

# Main

- Created in 1909 as part of an overall expansion of the West Wing of the White House during the administration of William Howard Taft



the 1st Oval Office, designed by Nathan C. Wyeth for President William Howard Taft

# Architecture and furnishings

- was inspired by the elliptical Blue Room
- three large south-facing windows behind the president's desk and a fireplace at the north end of the room
- The Oval Office has four doors
- An oval interior space is a Baroque concept that was adapted by Neoclassicism



# Architecture and furnishings

- December 24, 1929 - a fire damaged the West Wing. President Franklin D. Roosevelt engaged a staff architect, Eric Gugler, to redesign the West Wing with the Oval Office placed in the southeast corner more robust Georgian details



# Architecture and furnishings

## Traditional decorations:

- the Resolute desk, so named because it was built from the timbers of the British frigate HMS Resolute
- a portrait of George Washington over the mantel on the north end of the room
- a tradition of displaying potted Swedish ivy (*Plectranthus verticillatus*) atop the mantel



# Architecture and furnishings

- A series of bronze sculptures of horses and Western themes by Frederic Remington
- A large case clock, commonly called a grandfather clock, built in Boston by John and Thomas Seymour, c. 1795-1805



# Architecture and furnishings

Since President Barack Obama took office in 2009 he made some changes and subtle additions in the decorations



Childe Hassam ,The Avenue in the Rain and Norman



Norman Rockwell, The Statue of Liberty



a hand-carved wooden sculpture from Kenya, symbolizing the fragility of power

# Architecture and furnishings

## Oval Office carpet

The carpet of the oval office bears the Seal of the President



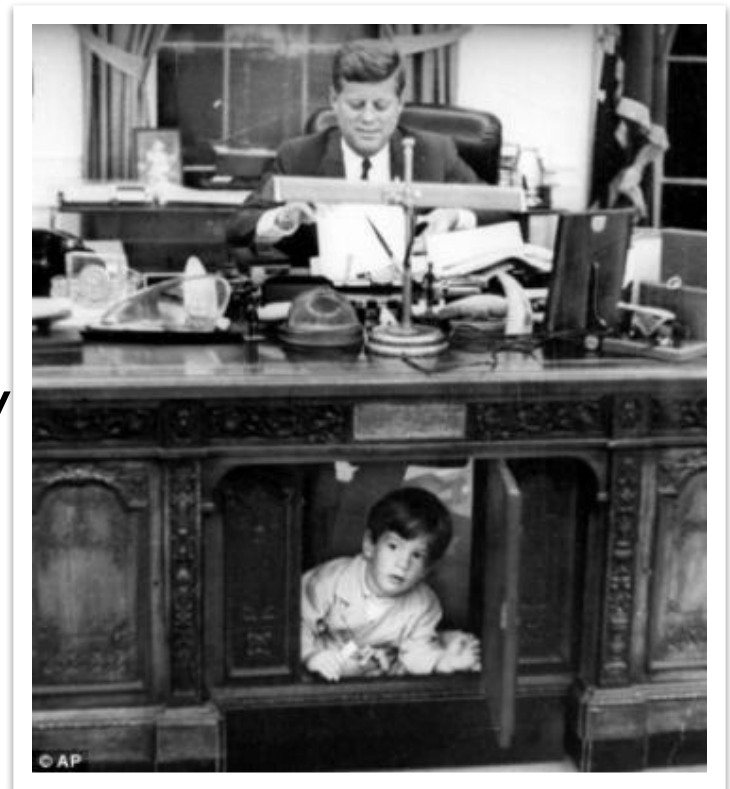
Plaster ceiling medallion (since 1934)





# History

- The Oval Office is associated in Americans' minds with the presidency itself through memorable images, such as a young John F. Kennedy, Jr. peering through the front panel of his father's desk, Richard Nixon speaking by telephone with the Apollo 11 astronauts after their successful voyage, and Amy Carter bringing her Siamese cat Misty Malarky Ying Yang to brighten President Jimmy Carter's day



# History

Use of the Oval Office for television broadcasts is rare and reserved for occasions with a sense of gravity



Ronald Reagan gives a televised address from the Oval Office