



U.S. Treasury Department Office of Public Affairs

**Treasury Secretary Paulson and Mrs. Laura Bush
Tour the Restoration and Modernization of the Treasury Building
January 11, 2007**

***Andrew Johnson Suite:**

In 1864, the Treasury Secretary's office was relocated to a suite overlooking the White House. This second suite of rooms, called the Andrew Johnson Suite, has been restored. Following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in 1865, Treasury Secretary Hugh McCulloch offered the use of his office to President Johnson for six weeks while Mary Todd Lincoln remained in the White House. This historical event was captured in period engravings by the press, which provided pictorial archival materials for its restoration in 1991. The project was a public-private enterprise with the Committee for the Preservation of the Treasury Building providing funding for the restoration. It now serves as the office of the Under Secretary for International Affairs.

President Johnson occupied the outer office while Secretary McCulloch kept his own adjacent office. The office was decorated by the New York firm of Pottier & Stymus who also decorated the White House for President Grant in 1869. The chairs, table and over-mantel mirror are by Pottier & Stymus, and the gilt rams head chairs are stylistically similar to what is in the White House collection. The star carpet was reproduced based on period engravings as were the drapery treatments. The room originally had a dado paper and the doors were originally faux grained, distinguishing this office from the others on the floor.

***Salmon P. Chase Suite:**

The Curator's Office restored the Salmon P. Chase Suite in 1992. The Chase Suite is named after the Treasury Secretary who served under President Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln met with Chase in this office on a regular basis to discuss the financing of the Civil War.

The interior of Chase's office was restored to its 1860 appearance, as the office was described in great detail in period newspaper accounts. The original ceiling is especially noteworthy, containing allegorical figures of Treasury and Justice, indicative of Chase's role as Treasury

Secretary and also his background in law. Secretary Chase would later assume the position of Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The antique furnishings in the room are from the Treasury Collection which consists of over 5,000 objects of fine and decorative arts. Much of the collection has come from the Treasury building and from the Treasury bureaus. It was first recognized by Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon who grouped the antiques together and organized the first Treasury Collection.

Highlights in the room include the large over-mantel mirror which is described in detail in a period newspaper account and a sofa bearing the “US” crest, both designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect in their attempt to standardize government furnishings. Comparable pieces with emblematic shields are found in the White House collection and date to the same period.

Diplomatic Reception Room:

The Secretary’s Diplomatic Reception Room is a historically inspired space, created for Treasury Secretary James Baker. The restoration was completed in 1988. The furniture in the room dates from the period 1865-1870, many of the pieces by the New York firm of Pottier & Stymus. This is the same prominent decorating firm who completed the Andrew Johnson Suite in 1864 and the White House in 1869.

***Secretary Paulson’s Office:**

The present space became the Office of the Secretary in 1910, the date of the last building modernization before the present TBARR project. It is the fifth site in the building to be occupied by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Deputy Secretary Kimmitt’s Office:

Immediately adjacent to the Secretary’s Office is Deputy Secretary Robert Kimmitt’s office. When the TBARR project was working in this space, the Curator’s Office conducted investigative work on the ceiling and found decorative paint that dates to 1875. From our research, we know that it is the work of William J. McPherson, a decorative painter from Boston who worked in the building for seven weeks. McPherson is best known for his decorative paint in the Secretary of the Navy’s Office in the former State, War and Navy building as well as at the Connecticut State Capitol.

***West Dome:**

The West Dome restoration was undertaken during the last phase of the TBARR project, and completed in 2004. The monumental dome represents the work of the Supervising Architect Alfred Mullett.

The original construction was delayed five years because of the Civil War and the financial hardships that it imposed on the building project. The surviving drawings show Mullett’s careful consideration of several design options, finally settling on a triple dome. This design solution

allowed natural light to come through two contiguous skylights each positioned directly over a staircase. The central oculus was originally frosted and contained a ventilator to circulate air throughout the attic story.

Paint analysis revealed that the original decorative palette contained many architectural elements that were gilt. The palette is the same used by the architect for Treasury's West Lobby, the second floor White House entrance, as well as the Cash Room. The gilding is now symbolic of the period called the "gilded age," when America achieved great economic prosperity after the Civil War.

Treasurer's Office:

The Treasurer's Office contains one of the last remaining of the original four vaults that served the Cash Room. Constructed under an 1863 patent by the architect, Isaiah Rogers, the "Burglar-Proof Vault" consisted of iron and steel plates with two layers of iron balls in cavities that were intended to rotate freely if pierced by a drill.

The Treasurer's Office has traditionally been located at Treasury's North entrance since the wing was completed in 1869.

***Cash Room:**

The Cash Room and the West Dome are regarded as Treasury's most important architectural spaces. Both areas represent the designs of Treasury Supervising Architect, Alfred Mullett, who would go on to design the State, War and Navy Building, now the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The Cash Room was originally designed as a banking hall where any government draft could be redeemed for cash.

While the façade of Treasury's North Wing is Greek Revival, the Cash Room is architect Mullett's first venture into the French Second Empire Style. This building style would completely consume architect Mullett in his designs for the State, War and Navy Building.

Completed in 1869, the room is constructed of seven different types of marble, the ceiling gilded with a palette similar to what you have just seen in the West Dome. The room is the result of a public-private partnership, the initial funding from the Committee for the Preservation of the Treasury Building and most recently, the restoration of the ceiling gilding a gift to the Department from the Treasury Historical Association.

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