

The Early Republic 1789-1829

Our Nation's Capital

The original capital of the United States was New York City in 1788 under the United States Constitutional Convention. George Washington was inaugurated in New York City. In 1790, Philadelphia became the temporary capital while the federal city of what would become Washington, DC, was being built. The capital was moved to DC in 1800 because the Constitution required that the government be housed on federal, not state, land.

The White House, located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, is the home of the president of the United States. George Washington chose this site and construction

began in 1792, but Martha and George Washington never lived in the home, since it was not completed until after his presidency. In 1800, President John Adams and his wife, Abigail, moved into the nearly finished home. Not long after, it was burned by the British during the War of 1812.

The White House was named by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1901. It has also been called the President's House, the President's Palace, and the Executive Mansion. The White House is the only private residence of a nation's leader that is open to the public for free.

Who Was President during the Early Republic?

Year(s)	President	Political Party	Influence
1789; 1792	George Washington	Federalist	Served two terms and set the standard for American presidents
1796	John Adams	Federalist	Major achievement: skillfully avoided war with France
1800; 1804	Thomas Jefferson	Democratic-Republican	Provided for westward expansion and doubled the size of the United States; his presidency is known as the Jeffersonian Era
1808; 1812	James Madison	Democratic-Republican	Brilliant thinker and statesman
1816; 1820	James Monroe	Democratic-Republican	Presidency marked by a spirit of goodwill, nationalism, and optimism
1824	John Quincy Adams	National-Republican	Helped formulate the Monroe Doctrine

Exercise

1. Name the first two cities to serve as capital of the United States. _____

2. Explain why the nation's capital was relocated to Washington, DC. _____

3. What happened to the White House in 1812? _____