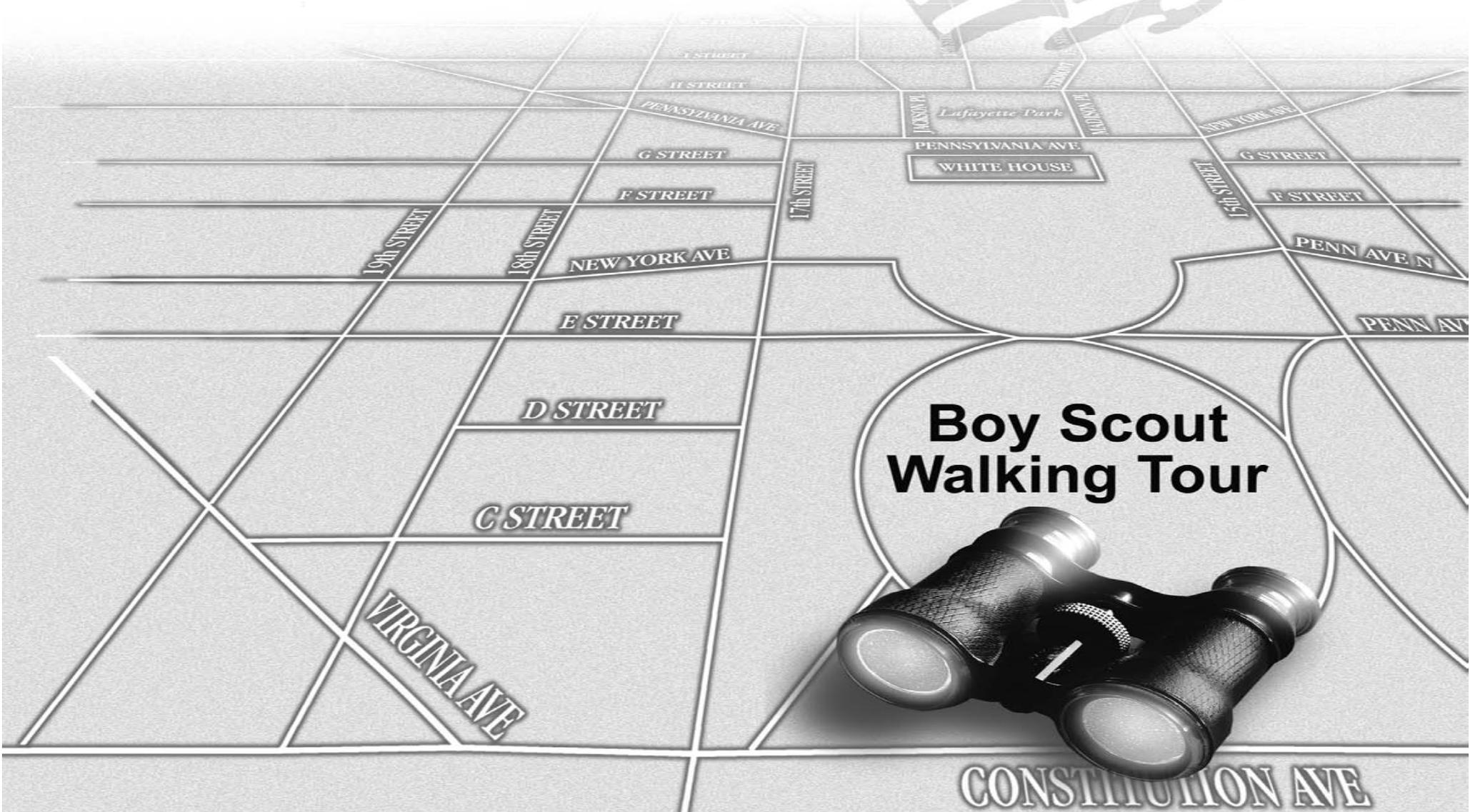


Neighbors *to the* President

**Boy Scout
Walking Tour**



CONSTITUTION AVE

decorative stone panels between the second and third floors. The architect put the decoration on the front where passersby would notice and not on the back to save money.

8 Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB)

2 cannons

The War Department used the North entrance as their main entrance, which is why the cannons are there.

24 freestanding columns

The body part on the roof pediment is a male torso.

The building nearly dwarfs the scale of buildings across the street, and this was intentional to convey the importance and permanence of the government at the anniversary of its centennial.

9 The Decatur House

Decatur House faces onto Jackson Place, named after President Andrew Jackson, whose statue is in the center of the park across the street.

The park that is adjacent to the Decatur House is Lafayette Square, named after the Marquis de Lafayette, who aided our country in our struggle for independence from Great Britain.

10 White House

The White House is named after the building's color.

Many people believe that the building was first painted after the British burned the building in the War of 1812 to hide the scorch marks, but the residence was painted earlier than that to help provide a more weather resistant surface, because the stone used to build the building was very porous.

The White House's original color was a sand color.

The National Register of Historic Places tells the story of America's history through her historic sites, districts, structures, objects and buildings. Each of the 74,000 listings on the National Register helps broaden the understanding and appreciation of communities throughout the United States.

In the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Congress asked the Department of the Interior's National Park Service to administer the nation's official list of historic structures and sites. Specific criteria guide the selection process for nominations to the National Register. Places eligible for designation are those associated with:

historic events or trends

significant persons distinctive examples of an architectural style, engineering design, or construction method, or that provide information about prehistory.

For more detailed information on the National Register, please visit the National Park Service website www.cr.nps.gov.

Neighbors to the President Boy Scout Walking Tour

Welcome to Washington, and to the neighborhood of the president. This walking tour will provide information to boy scouts who are earning their American Heritage badge. The scout will learn about ten sites that are on the National Register of Historic Places, and surround the area once known as President's Park.

This walking tour meets three of the requirements of the American Heritage badge which are,

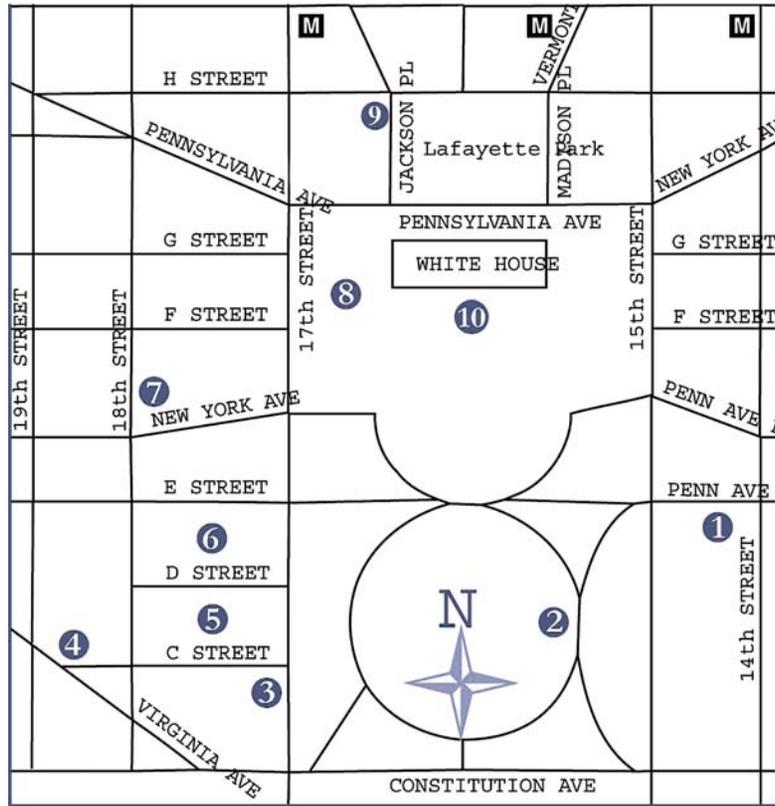
1: (a) "Make a map of your area. Mark the points of historical interest. Show your map in your classroom or troop meeting place. Tell about the points of historical interest."

2: (a) "Explain what is meant by the National Register of Historic Places. Tell about any National Register properties in your area. Describe how a property becomes eligible for listing."

3: (c) "Choose ONE of the following; describe its adoption; tell about any changes since its adoption: (a) the flag (b) The Pledge of Allegiance (c) The Seal (d) The motto (e) The national anthem.

In the process of walking around the neighborhood, the scout will see a variety of buildings that include memorials, office buildings, and residential buildings, of which only one is still being used as a residence. Some of the buildings date to the founding of the city, others are more recent. All together, they help to form one neighborhood within the nation's capital.

Following a description of each building and its historical highlights, are some questions or activities for the scout to consider. Answers to these are on the last page. Enjoy!



M Metro Station Entrance/Exit

Key:

- 1 The White House Visitor Center (Department of Commerce)
- 2 The Boy Scout Memorial – President’s Park
- 3 The Organization of American States
- 4 The Department of the Interior
- 5 The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
- 6 The American Red Cross
- 7 The Octagon Museum
- 8 The Eisenhower Executive Office Building
- 9 The Decatur House
- 10 The White House

Answer Key

- 1 **White House Visitor Center**
13 stars represent the original colonies

The shield has 13 red and white stripes (representing the original 13 colonies) the blue bar above it (symbolizes the uniting of the 13 colonies and represents congress).
- 2 **The Boy Scout Memorial**
The Boy Scout represents the aspirations of all past, present, and future scouts throughout the world. The male figure displays physical, mental, and moral fitness, love of country, good citizenship, loyalty, honor, and courage. He carries a helmet, a symbol of masculine attire. The female figure symbolizes enlightenment with the love of God and fellow man, justice, freedom, and democracy. She holds the eternal flame of God’s Holy Spirit. The architect of the Memorial was William Henry Deacy and the sculptor was Donald DeLue.
- 3 **The Organization of American States**
The condor is a well-known bird that lives in South America. The bald eagle can be found in North America.

Aztec Garden-statue of Xochipilli, the Aztec God of the Flowers guarding the pool.
- 4 **The Department of the Interior**
The left side looks equal and opposite to the right side.

Yes, it looks balanced. The arrangement of the windows and doors is symmetrical, meaning the size, form and arrangement of parts on opposite sides of an axis is the same. Symmetry is a hallmark of the architectural style known as Classicism.

1935

Franklin D. Roosevelt
- 5 **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)**
The thirteen columns symbolize the original 13 colonies.
- 6 **American Red Cross**
1915 construction began on the headquarters building
In memory of the heroic woman of the Civil War
The building is dedicated to the heroic women of the Civil War from both north and south.
- 7 **The Octagon Museum**
The Octagon has 6 sides. A polygon is a closed plane figure bounded by straight lines.

The front sides has more decorative features than the back sides, such as a stone base, a stone band between the first and second floors, and



10 The White House

The White House was designed and built between 1792 and 1800 by James Hoban. The house was reconstructed in 1815 after being burned by the British during the War of 1812.

The White House has served as the home of every president since John Adams. Its Federal-style exterior has

remained virtually unchanged from its original design. The interior of the house has been completely renovated using the historic floor plan. The home is furnished with American and European furniture and decorative arts, presidential porcelain, silver and glassware, sculpture, and paintings including portraits of the presidents and first ladies.

Activity:

Why is the White House so named?

Why is the building painted?

What is the White House's original color?

At home activity:

Do you have a historic area in your neighborhood? If so, make a map of the area highlighting the historic buildings and/or structures.



1 White House Visitor Center

The White House Visitor Center is operated by the National Park Service and is located at the north end of the Department of Commerce Building in Malcolm Baldrige Hall, originally called the Great Hall. Today, the room is named after Mr. Baldrige, who was secretary of commerce from 1981 to 1985 during Ronald Regan's presidency.

Construction of the Commerce building began on October 4, 1927, when Herbert C. Hoover was the secretary of commerce. The cornerstone was laid on July 10, 1929, when Hoover was president, and the building was completed in 1932.

The Great Hall, 225 feet long and 62 feet wide, was originally used as the Patent Search room for more than three million patents catalogued by the Department of Commerce. In celebration of our country's two hundredth birthday, the hall became the Bicentennial Visitor Center in 1976. Until 1989 it housed the Washington Tourist Information Center.

Renovations began in July 1993 by restoring the ornate plaster ceiling to return the simple elegance to the Great Hall. The original Indiana limestone walls, bronze doors, Vermont marble base and accent flooring, and Italianate bronze chandeliers were cleaned and refurbished. The White House Visitor Center opened in March 1995.

Activity:

Locate the seal of the United States within the visitor center. Observe the symbolism on this seal.

- The lettering on the ribbon in the beak of the eagle reads: "E Pluribus Unum," which means "out of many, one."
- The eagle holds 13 olive branches in its talon. The olive branches symbolize peace.
- The eagle also holds 13 arrows in a talon. The 13 arrows symbolize the original 13 colonies and the acceptance of the need to go to war to protect the country.
- Count the number of stars going around the seal. How many stars are there, and what do you think they represent?
- Count the number of red and white stripes. How many are there? What's the symbolism of the red and white stripes, and what does the blue shield represent?

The Great Seal was adopted by Congress on June 20, 1782. Changes were made to the seal in 1841, 1877, 1885, and 1904. In 1904, a new seal was engraved almost exactly as the seal appeared in 1885. This die was used for 26 years and later used to create a master die. From that time the Great Seal has remained the same.

2 Boy Scout Memorial

The Boy Scout Memorial is in President's Park, originally known as Reservation #1, and covers approximately 89 acres. President's Park was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The park contains many significant statues and memorials. This memorial was the site of the First Boy Scout Jamboree in 1937. It is one of the few memorials in Washington, D.C. commemorating a living cause. The funds to build the memorial's bronze statue were raised by the Scout units throughout the United States, and each donor signed one of several scrolls that were placed in the statue's pedestal. The memorial was unveiled in a ceremony on November 7, 1964. The statue was accepted for the country by Associate Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark, who noted that the day marked his fiftieth anniversary as an Eagle Scout.

Activity:

Identify the three figures. What do they represent?

What 3 things can you do at home to preserve this memorial for future scouts of America?



3 Organization of American States (OAS)

International cooperation in the Americas was the purpose for the establishment of what would become today's Organization of American States. Construction began on the House of the Americas in 1908; architects Albert Kelsey and Paul Cret of Philadelphia

won a competition to design the building that would express the cultural and racial diversity of the Western Hemisphere.

The mansion of John Van Ness once occupied the site and included a horse track on the south side of the property, and a carriage house at the northwest corner of the property. Today, only the carriage house remains. The mansion was the first in the District of Columbia to have both hot and cold running water, a luxury unheard of at the time.

Activity:

How many cannons flank the EEOB's north entrance (Pennsylvania Avenue and 17th Streets)?

Which department (State, War or Navy) do you think used this first as their main entrance? (Hint: Who would use the cannons in a ground battle?)

How many freestanding columns are at the EEOB's north entrance?

Identify the body part highlighted on the roof pediment (triangular section) of the EEOB's north façade.

Compare the size of the building with the scale of buildings opposite it on Pennsylvania Avenue. What does this say about the hopes and aspirations of the building's design for the government?



9 The Decatur House

The Decatur House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in December of 1960; it was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966. The construction of Decatur House began in the spring of 1818 and was completed in January 1819 as the first private residence on the street. Commodore Stephen Decatur's purpose in building the house was to highlight his

prominence and wealth. Stephen Decatur was at the height of his distinguished naval career when he and his wife, Susan Wheeler Decatur, moved into the home. They wished to establish themselves firmly in Washington society.

The site Decatur chose for the house is located at the southwest corner of Jackson Place and H Street, NW, diagonally across from the President's House. Not only was its location in a prominent place, but the architect selected to design the House was the well-known Benjamin Henry Latrobe who had worked on the Capitol Building, the White House, and St. John's Church.

Activity:

What is the name of the street onto which the house faces? Who do you think it was named after?

What is the name of the park that is adjacent to Decatur House? Who do you think it was named after?

In 1966, the Octagon was designated a National Historic Landmark under the category of Political and Military Affairs (1783-1830), because of its prominent role in the ending of the War of 1812, and for its architectural significance.

Activity:

How many sides does the Octagon have? Is it a regular polygon?

Compare the front sides with the back sides. What are the differences? Why would the architect make such differences?



8 Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB)

The EEOB was built between 1871 and 1888 as the State, War, and Navy Department Building. This building brought together these three rapidly growing agencies under a single roof. Since its completion, the building has been associated with people, events, and decisions of great historic importance to the country.

Alfred B. Mullett, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, designed the building. It was built in four stages and replaced two existing executive office buildings that stood west of the White House.

The Navy, the War Department, and the State Department moved to new quarters in 1918, 1938, and 1947 respectively, as each agency outgrew their space. In 1949, the building was renamed the Executive Office Building to better identify its occupants, the Bureau of the Budget and White House staff. In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower held the first televised presidential press conference within the building. Since Lyndon B. Johnson, the building has housed all vice presidents and their staffs.

In 1957, the President's Advisory Commission on Presidential Office Space recommended demolition and replacement of the Executive Office Building with a modern office building. This recommendation was never implemented. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1969, it was renamed the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building in 1999 and rededicated in 2002.

US President Theodore Roosevelt presided at the House of the Americas' cornerstone laying ceremony in front of an audience of nearly five thousand people. The building was funded by contributions from the member states of the OAS, and a large donation from the United States humanitarian Andrew Carnegie. On April 26, 1910, US President William Taft inaugurated the House of the Americas by planting a peace tree in the tropical patio, and dedicating the building to the 21 member countries that belonged to the Organization at the time.

An artistic and historical landmark, the House of the Americas brings together all nations of the Americas to negotiate agreements, discuss the settlement of disputes and to put forth ideas to confront the challenges of the day, respecting all ethnic, ancestral, and cultural variations. The building was selected for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 for its distinctive character and historical significance.

The Art Museum of the Americas is located in the building directly behind the House of the Americas. It, too, was designed by the same architects as the main building, and served once as the residence for the OAS secretary generals. Currently the museum staff offices are located in the original Van Ness carriage house.

Activity:

On the east side of the House of the Americas, can you locate the Aztec Garden with its statue? Describe what you see.

Next, locate at the building's entrance a Condor and Bald Eagle that symbolize North and South American unity. Why do you think these birds were selected?



4 The Department of the Interior

The U.S. Department of the Interior building covers 5 acres on a 2-block site bounded by 18th, 19th, C and E Streets, NW. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes (pronounced "ICK-ees") was so involved in the building's design that when it opened in 1937, it was referred to as "Ickes new

home." Ickes selected architect Waddy Wood and worked closely with him to ensure comfort and efficiency in the building.

The Main Interior Building's architectural style uses simple classical forms like rectangular shapes and columns. However, there is not a lot of decorative

ornamentation, as if it was stripped away or off the building, so the style of the Interior building is called “Stripped Classicism.” The Interior building was nominated and selected for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. The building was cited for its architectural design, distinguished architect, and its symbolic significance relative to Roosevelt’s New Deal.

Activity:

Take a look at the front of the building (also known as the façade), and consider the windows, doors, roofs, and balcony.

- Does the left side of the façade seem different from the right side?
- Do the two sides appear balanced?

Find the building’s cornerstone (hint: southwest corner). What is engraved on the cornerstone? Answer the following:

- When was the building built?
- Who was President of the United States at that time?



5 National Society Daughters of the American Revolutions (DAR)

The DAR was founded in 1890 by a group of women that could trace their ancestry to someone who fought or assisted in the Revolutionary War. In October of 1902, the Daughters broke ground on Memorial Continental Hall, a building to house collection

objects, provide a research library, staff offices and an auditorium. The building was completed in 1909.

Activity:

Take a look at the columns on the east side of the building. Count the columns. What do you think the columns symbolize?

Locate Constitution Hall on 18th Street, built by the National Society for its annual meeting, known as the Continental Congress, which is held in July. Constitution Hall was designed by architect John Russell Pope (Pope also designed the Jefferson Memorial, the National Gallery of Art, and the National Archives). Mrs. Calvin Coolidge laid the cornerstone for Constitution Hall on October 30, 1928. Mrs. Coolidge placed her card and that of the President of the United States under the stone. The gavel that was used to tap the stone into place was the same one that George Washington used to lay the cornerstone of the United States Capitol.

Constitution Hall was designated a registered National Historic Landmark in 1985 due to its significance as a nationally known center for the performing arts.

Fun Facts:

Did you know that Constitution Hall seats 3,702 people? It is the largest concert hall in Washington D.C.

Did you know that the columned porch on the East side is often filmed for TV as a “stand in” for the White House? The West Wing has filmed it most recently.



6 American Red Cross

The impressive white marble headquarters of the American Red Cross on 17th Street, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965. It memorializes not only the women of the Civil War, but all people who have served beneath the Red Cross banner since 1881.

The American Red Cross helps others cope with disasters, and teaches millions of people lifesaving skills each year. Red Cross workers – mostly volunteers – provide

meals and other services to the needy, they support families of military members stationed far from home, and provide international aid for vulnerable populations.

Activity:

To whom is this building dedicated?

In what year did construction begin on the American Red Cross Headquarters building?

7 The Octagon Museum

The Octagon was a Federal-style residence designed in 1799 by Dr. William Thornton for Colonel John Tayloe III and his wife Ann Ogle Tayloe. Dr. Thornton was the first architect of the U. S. Capitol. Construction of the Octagon was completed in 1801. It later served as the residence and office for President James Madison and First Lady Dolley Madison after the British burned the Executive Mansion in 1814. While in residence at the Octagon, President Madison signed the Treaty of Ghent on February 17, 1815, ending the War of 1812.

