



## Welcome to Federal Hall



photos courtesy NPS

Did you watch the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in January? That ceremony took place at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

But our country's capital wasn't always in Washington. George Washington was sworn in to office as our first president on April 30, 1789, at Federal Hall in New York City.

Let's learn more about this national landmark.

### Building history

The original building on Wall Street was built between 1699 and 1703 and named New York City Hall.

After the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1788, Pierre L'Enfant, a French architect who later designed the city plan for Washington, D.C., was hired to build a new government building on the site in New York. The new building was called Federal Hall, and it was where the first Congress, Supreme Court and executive offices were housed.

In 1790, the U.S. government moved to Philadelphia, and L'Enfant's building became a city government building again. It was demolished in 1812.

### Big events

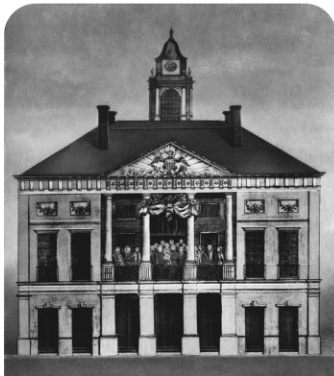
At Federal Hall, the Congress of the Confederation approved the Northwest Ordinance in 1789. This **ordinance**, or law, set up what would later become the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. It also prohibited slavery in these future states.

Congress also:

- authorized the first census of the population.
- set up the laws for the location of the new capital in Washington, D.C.
- set up laws that established the U.S. court system that we still use today.

The Bill of Rights was written in Federal Hall in 1789. At that time, our country had only 13 states and a population of about 3 million. Twenty-six senators and 65 representatives debated about amending the Constitution.

In September 1789, Congress passed 12 amendments.



Federal Hall as it appeared at Washington's inauguration.



In 2002, a year after the tragedies on Sept. 11 in New York City; Arlington, Virginia; and Stonycreek Township, Pennsylvania; the U.S. Congress met in the rotunda at Federal Hall in remembrance.

### Capitol vs. capital

A **capital** is the city where the top government offices and leaders are located.

A **capitol** is a building where the government meets and makes laws.

Today, the U.S. Capitol is in our capital of Washington, D.C.

(Words that sound alike but are spelled differently and have different meanings are called **homophones**.)

### Resources



#### On the Web:

- [nps.gov/feha](https://nps.gov/feha)

#### At the library:

- "The New Nation Through the Eyes of George Washington" by Anita Yasuda

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Federal Hall are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



BILL, CAPITAL, CAPITOL, CENSUS, FEDERAL, HALL, HOMOPHONE, INAUGURATION, L'ENFANT, MANHATTAN, MEMORIAL, NATIONAL, NEW YORK, ORDINANCE, RIGHTS, STREET, WALL, WASHINGTON.

L L A W N N A T I O N A L X O  
N Q I L A I R O M E M L L I B  
A N T W A S H I N G T O N C C  
T E N O I T A R U G U A N I A  
T W A E S A L L R I G H T S P  
A Y F Z U L Q S T R E E T H I  
H O N R S L F E D E R A L F T  
N R E C N A N I D R O E N F A  
A K L E E H B W C A P I T O L  
M I L G C U E N O H P O M O H

## Cook's Corner

### Hot and Cold Potato Salad

#### You'll need:

- 4 cups cooked potatoes, cubed
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 3 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- 1 cup carrots, shredded and chopped
- 1/4 cup vinegar

- 2 tablespoons mustard
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon dried dill
- salt and pepper to taste



#### What to do:

1. Combine potatoes, onion, eggs and carrots in a medium bowl.
2. In a small saucepan, heat vinegar, mustard, mayonnaise and sour cream.
3. Pour the dressing over the potato salad mixture.
4. Add the dill, salt and pepper and mix well. Serve hot or cold. Serves 4.

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. having a lot of money (7) \_\_\_\_\_
2. red or blue (5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. group of trees (6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. pink bird (8) \_\_\_\_\_
5. it goes with salt (6) \_\_\_\_\_
6. person who fixes leaks (7) \_\_\_\_\_
7. ancient reptile (8) \_\_\_\_\_

PLUM	EST	PEP	COL
MIN	LTHY	DIN	UR
FOR	PER	OR	BER
OSA	WEA	GO	FLA

Answers: wealthy, color, forest, flamingo, pepper, plumber, dinosaur.



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### Mini Jokes



**Gina:** Was George Washington a handsome man?  
**Garth:** Of course! He was George-ous!

### Eco Note



Such a good boy! Colorado State University scientists say they are working to use artificial intelligence (AI) to train pet dogs. Jason Stock and Tom Cavey programmed a robot to recognize when dogs were sitting, lying down or standing. They created an automated trainer that has 92% accuracy by combining a movable camera to observe the dogs, a speaker to bark out commands and a treat delivery tube to reward good behavior.

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### For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about events at your state's capitol.

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