

FDR: Selected Days in the Life of President Franklin Roosevelt

Two Sessions

Thursdays -- March 26 and April 2, 2026

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Instructor: Carl Fields

FDR: Selected Days in the Life of President Franklin Roosevelt

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Franklin D. Roosevelt **Day by Day**
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Day by Day

Welcome to "Day by Day" — your source for information on President Franklin D. Roosevelt's daily activities 1933-1945. Using a chronology originally compiled by documentary filmmaker Pare Lorentz, this interactive timeline features historical appointment calendars, documents, photographs, audio and film from the Roosevelt Library.

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calendar timeline

Notes:
Previous course holdover; FDR Lib web db; daily "desk diary" items; Search options; Site constructed ~2010 using "work papers" Created 1930s & 1940s (by people who did not know their work would be used in this way; this photo, various search options.

FDR: Selected Days in the Life of President Franklin Roosevelt

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November 18, 1940

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Transcript

Times	Log	Location	Source
9:57am	Arrive White House	White House	USH, STE, TU
10:30am	Spkr. Sam T. Rayburn (TX), Sen. Alben W. Barkley (KY), Sen. James F. Byrnes (SC), Rep. John W. McCormack (MA)	White House	STE, TU, PAJ
11:30am	Brig. Gen. Glen E. Edgerton	Office	STE, TU, PAJ
11:35am	To Office	White House	USH
11:45am	Navy Sec. Frank Knox, Navy U Sec. James V. Forrestal	Office	STE, TU, PAJ
12:00pm	Wayne Johnson	Office	STE, TU, PAJ
12:15pm	Gov. Roy L. Cochran (NE)	Office	STE, TU, PAJ
12:30pm	Rep. Jerry Voorhis (CA)	Office	STE, TU, PAJ
1:00pm	(lunch) VP-Elect Henry A. Wallace	Office	STE, TU
2:30pm	U Sec. of State Sumner Welles	Office	STE
3:45pm	Mayor Edward J. Kelly	Office	STE
7:05pm	Returned from Office via Doctor's office	White House	USH
7:40pm – 1:05am	(dinner) Household, Crown Princess Martha of Norway, Mrs. Oestgaard, Mr. Widel, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley <i>Note: Viewed movie "The Dictator" until 0020; FDR retires at 0115 the following day (11/19/40)</i>	White House	USH
8:00pm	Telegram drafted to Prime Min. Winston S. Churchill	White House	WSC
Houseguest	Harry L. Hopkins (arr: 0957)		USH

USH = White House Usher's Diary, STE = Stenographer's Diary, PC = Press Conference, TU = Tully's Appointment Diary

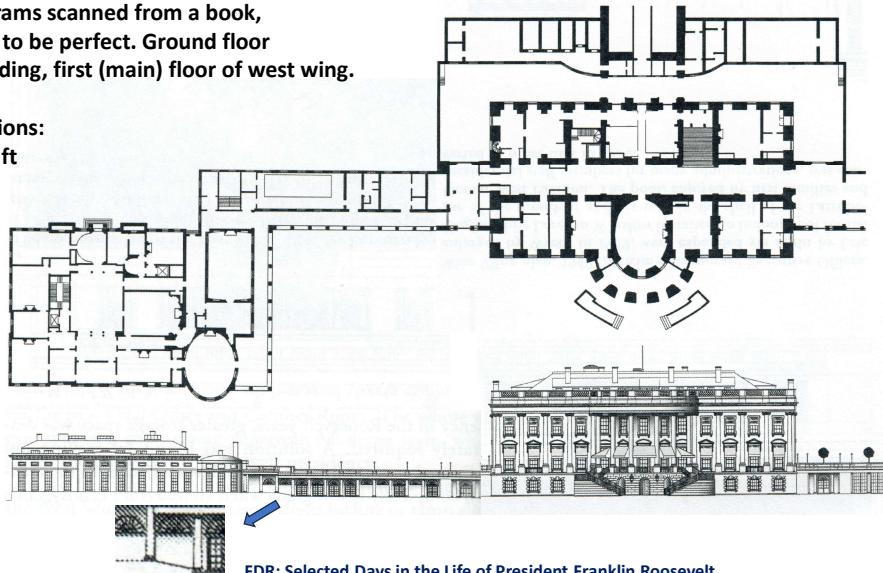
Notes: White House (Residence) and Office are essentially in separate buildings; sometimes state is listed for senators, governors, etc – and sometimes it is not; topic of meeting is rarely listed, point out orig columns and edits for projected visibility.

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White House Layout (~1942-48) – Sheet 1 of 1

Note: Stitched together by an amateur from 4 diagrams scanned from a book, not claimed to be perfect. Ground floor of main building, first (main) floor of west wing.

**WH Dimensions:
Length: 168 ft
Width: 85 ft**



FDR: Selected Days in the Life of President Franklin Roosevelt

November 18, 1940 – Sheet 1 of 2 Crown Princess of Norway

Times	Log	Location	
9:57am	Arrive White House	White House	Notes: Monday. Pres "arrived" @ 9:57 AM (had spent long weekend on presidential yacht); Dem leaders in residence; summarize all 4; VPs; late for 11:30 mtg; Forrestal; Nixon-Voorhis
10:30am	Spkr. Sam T. Rayburn (TX), Sen. Alben W. Barkley (KY), Sen. James F. Byrnes (SC), Rep. John W. McCormack (MA)	White House	
11:30am	Brig. Gen. Glen E. Edgerton	Office	
11:35am	To Office	White House	
11:45am	Navy Sec. Frank Knox, Navy U Sec. James V. Forrestal	Office	
12:00pm	Wayne Johnson	Office	
12:15pm	Gov. Roy L. Cochran (NE)	Office	
12:30pm	Rep. Jerry Voorhis (CA)	Office	

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November 18, 1940 – Sheet 2 of 2 Crown Princess of Norway

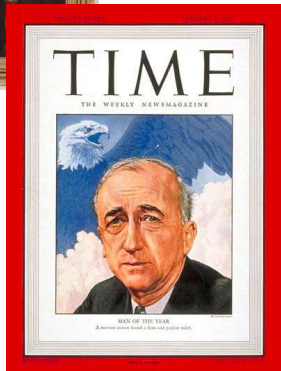
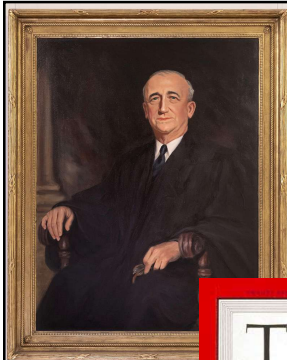
12:30pm	Rep. Jerry Voorhis (CA)	Office
1:00pm	(lunch) VP-Elect Henry A. Wallace	Office
2:30pm	U Sec. of State Sumner Welles	Office
3:45pm	Mayor Edward J. Kelly	Office
7:05pm	Returned from Office via Doctor's office	White House
7:40pm – 1:05am	(dinner) Household, Crown Princess Martha of Norway, Mrs. Oestgaard, Mr. Widel, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley <i>Note: Viewed movie "The Dictator" until 0020; FDR retires at 0115 the following day (11/19/40)</i>	White House
8:00pm	Telegram drafted to Prime Min. Winston S. Churchill	White House
Houseguest	Harry L. Hopkins (arr. 0957)	

Note: Doctor's office, process and her children may have resided in WH for a time, but that is not indicated here, HLH arrive time, Household, ER location not mentioned (Household?).

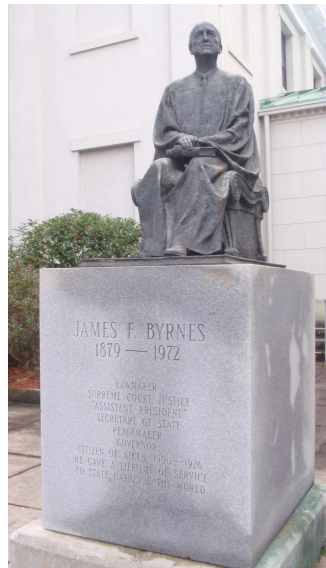
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November 18, 1940



James F Byrnes



James F Byrnes



Charlie Chaplin as "The Great Dictator"

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November 18, 1940



Notes: Crown Princess, plot of "based-on-a-true-story miniseries, characteristic: look for one thing, found others.

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What's Ahead

1. Introduction: Overview of Day-by-Day web site and the Day of Crown Princess's Visit
2. FDR Timeline
3. FDR Day-by-Day Information for Selected Key Dates in FDR Administration
4. Meetings with Leaders: 1930s, 1940s, and Future (with an "Arkansas Interlude")
5. FDR Medical Issues – and the Doctor's Office
6. Lucy Mercer Rutherford (maybe?) and FDR's Final Weeks

FDR Timeline

- **January 30, 1882:** Born in Hyde Park, New York
- **1900–1903:** Attends Harvard University
- **March 17, 1905:** Marries Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)*
 - 6 children; 4 sons and 1 daughter survived to become adults
- **1907:** Passes bar exam (Columbia Law School)
- **1910:** Elected to the New York State Senate
- **1913–1920:** Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Wilson Administration, WWI*)
- **1920:** Democratic Party vice-presidential *nominee*, not elected*
- **August 1921:** Stricken with "polio," resulting in permanent paralysis of his legs*
- **1921-27:** Physical rehab; works in law & banking; nominates Al Smith at 1924 Democratic National Convention; establishes Warm Springs Foundation (1926)
- **1928:** Elected Governor of New York, reelected 1930*
- **March 4, 1933:** Inaugurated as 32nd President, re-elected 3 times*
- **December 7, 1941:** Pearl Harbor attacked; U.S. enters WWII*
- **April 12, 1945:** Dies of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Georgia*

Note: This "wordy" side is in handout.

Selected Key Dates

1. **First Inauguration (4 Mar 1933)**
2. **First Noted Visit to WH Doctor's Office (23 Oct 1934)**
3. **FDR Signs Social Security Act (14 Aug 1935)**
4. **Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor (7 Dec 1941)**

March 4, 1933 – 1st Inauguration – Sheet 1 of 2

<i>Times</i>	<i>Log</i>	<i>Location</i>
10:00am	Pres. Herbert Hoover arrived. No appointments. Said good-bye to office staff	Office
10:40am	Pres. Herbert Hoover: Returned from Office	White House
10:45am	The Cabinet, Sen. George H. Moses, Spkr. Henry T. Rainey arrived. Received by Pres. and Mrs. Herbert Hoover in Blue Room	White House
10:50am	FDR and ER arrived but remained in cars under North Portico where Pres. and Mrs. Herbert Hoover greeted them	White House
10:55am	Party left for the Capitol, Washington, DC	White House
1:30pm	FDR, ER and family arrived from Capitol	White House
1:45pm	(luncheon - State Dining Room) Buffet for 92 guests	White House
2:30pm	FDR and party left for reviewing stands	White House
5:15pm	ER returned to house. Received tea guests in State Dining Room	White House
6:00pm	FDR returned from parade and went to Study on second floor	White House

**Note:
Saturday.**

March 4, 1933 – 1st Inauguration – Sheet 2 of 2

6:00pm	FDR returned from parade and went to Study on second floor	White House
6:05pm	Cabinet officers arrived and were sworn in by Justice Benjamin N. Cardozo. FDR immediately called his new cabinet in session	White House
7:15pm	FDR joined ER and received tea guests in Blue Room	White House
7:45pm	(supper - State Dining Room) Buffet. 75 guests	White House
9:55pm – 1:00am	ER, family, and dinner guests left for Inaugural Ball at Washington, DC auditorium <i>Note: Retired at 0105 next day</i>	White House
ER	Arrived at White House at 1050. In White House the rest of the day.	
Houseguest	Sarah Delano Roosevelt, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Dall and children, Mr. and Mrs. James Roosevelt, Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., John Roosevelt <i>Note: Usher's log does not give arrival times.</i>	Notes: Wanted impression administration went to work immediately, FDR did not attend Ball (which had another name), no inaugural balls in other 3 administrations, Anna glitch.
Houseguest	Lt. Col. and Mrs. John Boettiger (dep. 1730)	

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October 24, 1934 – 1st Doctor's Office – Sheet 1 of 1

<i>Times</i>	<i>Log</i>	<i>Location</i>
12:40am	Retired from previous day.	White House
9:15am	Henry Morgenthau, Jr.	White House
10:20am	To Doctor's office	White House
10:40am	To Office	White House
10:45am	Press Conf. PC#152 Subject: State Elections	Office
11:00am	John Y. Brown	Office
11:15am	Rep. Stubbs	Office
11:30am	Rep. Collins	Office

Notes: Wednesday. Morning stop at Dr Office. Later it was usually afternoon. Location between office and residence, First of 1142 days to WH Dr Office (CCF initial suspicion this was a code phrase). Remainder of day omitted for brevity, but he later stopped at WH swimming pool on way back from office (for possibly an hour).

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August 14, 1935 – Social Security Act – Sheet 1 of 1

3:00pm	To Office	White House
3:30pm	Sign Social Security Bill (Pictures) Cabinet Room)	Office
4:00pm	George Marvin <i>Note: Penciled entry.</i>	Office
4:15pm	Charles W. Taussig <i>Note: Penciled entry.</i>	Office
7:00pm	Returned from Office via pool	Office
7:45pm	(dinner) Household only. <i>Note: Retired after midnight.</i>	White House
ER	(No usher's log entry this day.)	

Notes: Wednesday. Date picked because of widespread and long-lasting significance of this program (one of several items in that category for his administration). Early portion of day omitted. Apparently, no ceremony/audience for legislation signing. No houseguests – possibly because usher's log page entry is missing. No Dr. Office stop but *did* stop at WH pool (7:00 PM).

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December 7, 1941 – Attack on Pearl Harbor Sheet 1 of 3

Times	Log	Location
10:45am	U Sec. of State Sumner Welles <i>Note: Other records list meeting with Welles at 10:45 PM. Is this AM meeting a misprint in the President's Appointment Index?</i>	White House
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Chinese Amb. Dr. Hu Shih	White House
1:15pm	(lunch - Study) Harry L. Hopkins	White House
3:05pm – 4:15pm	War Sec. Henry L. Stimson, Navy Sec. Frank Knox, Harry L. Hopkins, Capt. John R. Beardall, Marvin H. McIntyre, Stephen T. Early, Grace G. Tully <i>Note: No departure time noted for attendees other than Henry L. Stimson and FK</i>	White House
3:20pm – 4:15pm	Gen. George C. Marshall (Chief of Staff), Sec. of State Cordell Hull <i>Note: Cordell Hull departed at 1600</i>	White House



Note: Sunday, no church attendance listed. Attack just before 8 AM (Hawaii time), FDR was notified while at lunch (or, possibly, while working with his stamp collection). FDR never went to West Wing Oval Office this day. Both Welles and Hull represent State Dept.

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December 7, 1941 – Attack on Pearl Harbor Sheet 2 of 3

3:05pm – 4:15pm	War Sec. Henry L. Stimson, Navy Sec. Frank Knox, Harry L. Hopkins, Capt. John R. Beardall, Marvin H. McIntyre, Stephen T. Early, Grace G. Tully <i>Note: No departure time noted for attendees other than Henry L. Stimson and FK</i>	White House
3:20pm – 4:15pm	Gen. George C. Marshall (Chief of Staff), Sec. of State Cordell Hull <i>Note: Cordell Hull departed at 1600</i>	White House
5:30pm – 6:40pm	To Doctor's office	White House
7:00pm – 7:10pm	Solicitor Gen. Charles Fahy	White House
7:30pm – 8:40pm	(dinner - Study) Harry L. Hopkins, James Roosevelt, Grace G. Tully	White House
8:40pm – 11:15pm	VP Henry A. Wallace, Cabinet	White House

Note: FDR apparently did not skip Dr Office, Grace Tully was secretary at this time. Regular speechwriters out of town for weekend. FDR, Hopkins, and Tully are *said* to have written Dec 8 speech to congress (working dinner starting 7:30 PM?).

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December 7, 1941 – Attack on Pearl Harbor Sheet 3 of 3

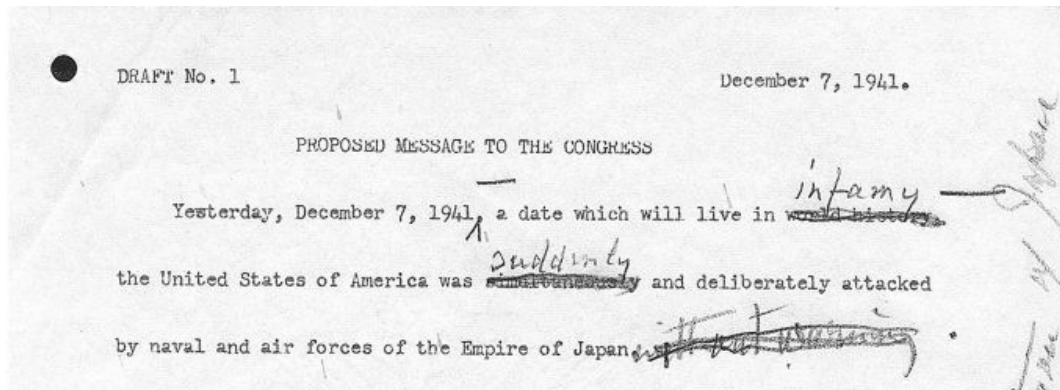
8:40pm – 11:15pm	VP Henry A. Wallace, Cabinet	White House
9:45pm – 11:15pm	VP Henry A. Wallace, Sec. of State Cordell Hull, War Sec. Henry L. Stimson, Navy Sec. Frank Knox, Interior Sec. Harold L. Ickes, Commerce Sec. Jesse Jones, Treas. Sec. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Labor Sec. Frances W. Perkins, Att.-Gen. Francis Biddle, Agriculture Sec. Claude Wickard, Postmaster Gen. Frank C. Walker, Sen. Alben W. Barkley (KY), Sen. Charles L. McNary (OR), Sen. Tom Connally (TX), Sen. Warren R. Austin (VT), Sen. Hiram W. Johnson (CA), Spkr. Sam T. Rayburn (TX), Rep. Jere Cooper (TN), Rep. Joseph W. Martin (MA), Rep. Sol Bloom (NY), Rep. Charles A. Eaton (NJ)	White House
10:45pm – 11:45pm	U Sec. of State Sumner Welles <i>Note: Continued at 0000 next day. President's Appointment Index has meeting with U Sec. of State Sumner Welles at 10:45 AM. Is that a misprint?</i>	White House
ER	In Washington, DC	
Houseguest	Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Adams, Sr (dep. 3:30), Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Adams, Jr (dep. 3:30), Miss Laura Adams (dep. 3:30)	

Note: Overlap in 8:40 PM "Cabinet" and 9:45 PM list (some listed congressmen are Republicans). Houseguests may have been asked to leave when 2nd floor residence began to be used for high-level meetings.

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December 8, 1941 – Speech, 1st paragraph



Leaders: 1940s and Afterwards

1. Truman (7 Dec 1934)
2. King George VI (UK, 8 June 1939)
3. LBJ – as Congressman (5 July 1939)
4. Churchill (December 1941)
5. The “Arkansas Interlude” (15 Jan 1942)
6. Eisenhower (9 Feb 1942)
7. LBJ – as USNR officer (26 April 1942)

Others (left on “cutting room floor”): Henry Ford (I), Nelson Rockefeller, Actress Shirley Temple (then age ~9), Actor Melvyn Douglas, and many others.

December 7, 1934 – 1st Meeting w/Truman – Sheet 1 of 1

Times	Log	Location
9:45am – 10:15am	Joseph P. Kennedy	White House
11:00am	Hugh Gibson <i>Note: Time conflict - Usher's Diary shows FDR going to his office at 1115.</i>	Office
11:15am	To Office	White House
11:15am	Sen. William H. King <i>Note: Time conflict - Usher's Diary shows FDR going to his office at 1115 and another meeting preceeded this one.</i>	Office
11:30am	Dir. Lilienthal and Mr. Groesbeck	Office
12:00pm	Frances W. Perkins	Office
12:15pm	Sen's. Clark, Truman, and Chair. Aylward	Office



Note: Friday, JPK, father of JFK, Truman ("looking for" Truman, ran across Kennedy). Remainder of day omitted for brevity, later with Dorthy Draper (possibly a phone call), stopped at WH pool, no Dr Office.

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June 8, 1939 – King George VI -- Sheet 1 of 2

10:34am	FDR and ER, accompanied by Gen. Edwin M. Watson and Daniel Callaghan, to Union Station to meet King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain	White House
11:54am	FDR and ER and Their Britannic Majesties arrived at the White House	White House
11:58am	FDR and ER and The King and Queen of Great Britain to Apartments	White House
2:35pm – 3:34pm	FDR and ER, accompanied by Their Britannic Majesties, Lady Seymour, Sir Allan Lascelles, Col. Piers Legh, and British entourage motoring on sightseeing tour	White House
6:18pm – 6:40pm	FDR swimming	White House
8:00pm	(dinner - state dining room) 86 attended; FDR and ER and The King and Queen of Great Britain descended in elevator together and received in the usual manner	White House

Notes: Thursday, Selected items for this date. General Watson was FDR's Sr Military (Army) aide, and, in some ways served as an in-part chief-of-staff.

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June 8, 1939 – King George VI -- Sheet 2 of 2

ER	In Washington, DC
Houseguest	King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain, Sir Alan Lascelles, Lady K. Seymour, Col. Piers Legh (all arr. 11:54). Servants: Miss Catherine McLean, Mrs. Matilda Raffan, Thomas Jerrain, R. Evitts (all arr. 11:54). Scotland Yard: Insp. Cameron, Insp. Geles (arr., no time given)

Selected items for this date. Names of servants are apparently included, as well as Scotland Yard (security?) personnel. There were similar Scotland Yard people when Churchill visited in December 1941-January 1942, but portions of days when they were listed were cut for brevity.

July 4, 1939 – Independence Day Picnic -- Sheet 1 of 1

<i>Times</i>	<i>Log</i>	<i>Location</i>
1:00pm	Picnic at Cottage	Hyde Park, NY
2:25pm	Press Conf. PC #560 At picnic on the Grounds adjacent to Val Kill Cottage.	Hyde Park, NY
12:00am	Leave for Washington, DC via New York Central Railroad	Hyde Park, NY

Notes: Tuesday. Prelude to first meeting with LBJ (next morning). Val Kill was, at this time, probably a vacation cottage on Hyde Park property where ER could entertain their grandchildren. FDR leaves by train at midnight, probably in ("private") presidential rail car. No mention of ER.

July 5, 1939 – Representative LBJ -- Sheet 1 of 1

Times	Log	Location
8:30am	Arrive Washington, DC	Washington, DC
8:45am	Returned to White House	White House
9:18am – 10:02am	Sen. Alben W. Barkley, Sen. Robert F. Wagner and Rep. Sam T. Rayburn	White House
11:10am	To Office	White House
11:15am	Rep. Lyndon B. Johnson	Office
11:30am	Min. John Cudahy	Office
12:00pm	Rep. H. Jerry Voorhis	Office
12:30pm	Gen. Frank T. Hines	Office

He Gets Things Done --

Lyndon Johnson

Knows
Washington

WHEN
JOHNSON RESIGNED
FROM NYA
Andrew Williams, NYA
Administrator, said John-
son had done "three times
his job" and turned him "one
of the ablest State Direc-
tors we have had."
—Associated Press
—from Washington



for **CONGRESSMAN**
10TH DISTRICT

Support the Man Who—
Stands with the President and for the People
Stands Whole-heartedly on Democratic platform of 1936
Understands Departmental Routine of Washington
Will Carry Colorado and Brazos Projects Through
Capably Administered His Part of the Roosevelt Pro-
gram for Texas

Notes: Wednesday. Train arrival; Barkley, Rayburn, Voorhis (remember from Crown Princess day); LBJ listed as congressman (no states listed). Rest of day omitted for brevity, No Dr Office but met R. T. McIntire, his personal WH physician (and a US naval officer) at 10:10 PM in FDR's WH residence, no ER, no houseguests? Stopped at pool in late afternoon.

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December 22, 1941 – Churchill Arrival in DC -- Sh. 1 of 2

12:19pm	To Office	White House
1:00pm	(lunch) Harry L. Hopkins	Office
1:45pm	Gen. Theodore Roosevelt	Office
2:00pm	Sen. Tom Connally (TX)	Office
5:30pm	Returned from Office	White House
5:55pm – 6:50pm	By motor to meet British Prime Min. Winston S. Churchill and party	White House

Note: Monday. Early-in-day items omitted. T. Roosevelt is son of former president and ER first cousin. Early evening events (tea, cocktails) omitted for brevity. Connally on this page not related to later TX governor.

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December 22, 1941 – Churchill Arrival in DC -- Sh. 2 of 2

8:45pm	(dinner) ER, 17 guests	White House
10:00pm – 12:35am	British Prime Min. Winston S. Churchill, Lord Halifax, Lord Beaverbrook, Sec. of State Cordell Hull, U Sec. of State Sumner Welles, Harry L. Hopkins in Study <i>Note: Cordell Hull and Sumner Welles left at 2400, Lord Halifax at 0005. Retired at 0050 next day</i> Subject: North Africa	White House
ER	Returned from New York, NY at 0720. In Washington, DC the rest of the day.	

Note: Monday, 10:00pm after-dinner meeting in FDR's study in residence, Lord Halifax was UK ambassador to US, one of few times subject of meeting is listed. No houseguests listed, *but* no exit time listed for Churchill or Beaverbrook. Churchill stayed in DC for ~3 weeks, *possibly* in WH for much (or all) of that time. Churchill brought his "portable map room" – said to have triggered creation of a WH map room.

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December 25, 1941 – Christmas Day -- Sh. 1 of 1

12:10am	Retired from previous day	White House
10:50am – 12:15pm	To Foundry Methodist Church for Christmas services, with ER, British Prime Min. Winston S. Churchill and staff, all houseguests, both aides, Adm. Harold R. Stark (Chief of Naval Ops.), Gen. George C. Marshall (Chief of Staff)	White House
1:15pm – 3:25pm	(lunch) ER, 19 guests. Coffee in West Hall	White House
5:30pm – 6:45pm	War Council: War Sec. Henry L. Stimson, Navy Sec. Frank Knox, Gen. Henry H. Arnold, Gen. George C. Marshall (Chief of Staff), Adm. Harold R. Stark (Chief of Naval Ops.), Adm. Ernest J. King, Harry L. Hopkins	White House
8:00pm – 11:40pm	(dinner) ER, 60 guests. Movies and carols	White House
11:40pm – 1:10am	To British Prime Min. Winston S. Churchill's room <i>Note: Retired at 0120 next day</i>	White House
ER	In Washington, DC	

Note: Thursday. Church service, "houseguests" mentioned, but none listed at bottom entry for this day. No British at 5:30pm "War Council," 11:40 pm entry *suggests* Churchill was houseguest at WH.

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January 15, 1942 – Arkansas Delegation -- Sh. 1 of 1

Times	Log	Location
12:00pm – 12:50pm	Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Norway	White House
12:50pm – 1:15pm	Sidney Hillman, Paul V. McNutt <i>Note: Time conflict - Stenographer's diary showed start at 1230</i>	White House
1:15pm – 1:35pm	Gov. Homer M. Adkins (AR), Sen. Hattie W. Caraway (AR), Rep. Fadjjo Cravens (AR) <i>Note: Time conflict - Stenographer's diary shows start at 1245</i>	White House
1:40pm – 3:45pm	(lunch) Harry L. Hopkins, Grace G. Tully <i>Note: Time conflict - Stenographer's diary shows start at 1300</i>	White House
5:30pm – 6:10pm	Postmaster Gen. Frank C. Walker	White House
6:10pm – 6:50pm	Navy Sec. Frank Knox, Adm. Morrell	White House



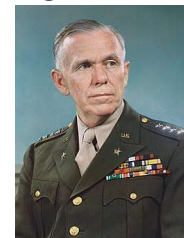
Note: Thursday. Portions of day omitted for brevity. Norway royalty again -- crown prince accompanying princess this time (traveled from UK to US during wartime!). Arkansas delegation *Senator* Hattie Caraway, *William* Fadjjo Cravens, FDR never in office this day? FDR did visit Dr Office this day. Tully was FDR's primary secretary after Missy LeHand incapacitated (probably early 1941).

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February 9, 1942 – 1st Eisenhower WH Meeting -- Sh. 1 of 1

1:00pm	(lunch)	Office
2:30pm	War Council: Adm. Harold R. Stark, Adm. Ernest J. King, War Sec. Henry L. Stimson, U Sec. of State Sumner Welles, Gen. George C. Marshall, Brig. Gen. D. D. Eisenhower (War Plans Div.)	Office
4:30pm	James M. Landis	Office
7:25pm	Returned from Office via Map Room and Doctor's office	Office
7:40pm	(dinner - West Hall) ER and Household <i>Note: Dinner entry in Usher's Diary says HH only. Under ER it says see above.</i>	White House
10:50pm	Retired	White House
ER	In Washington, DC	
Houseguests	H. Henigson (12:35 to 8:20)	



Note: Monday. First part of day omitted for brevity (had met with General Stillwell earlier this day). At 2:30pm Office meeting, Eisenhower is lowest-ranking person in room (Welles was Under Secretary of State, but FDR often chose to deal with him, rather than SofS Hull). Stopped at both Map Room and Dr Office on way back to residence, 7:40pm dinner – "HH" is Harry Hopkins (living in WH at this point).

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April 26, 1942 -- LBJ as USNR Officer – Sheet 1 of 1

<i>Times</i>	<i>Log</i>	<i>Location</i>
12:15am	Retired from previous day	White House
11:40am – 12:15pm	Lt. Comdr. Lyndon B. Johnson	White House
12:30pm – 1:15pm	Adm. R. S. Edwards, Adm. Russell Wilson, Adm. Sir Charles Little	White House
1:15pm	(lunch) Harry L. Hopkins, Robert E. Sherwood, Judge Samuel I. Rosenman	White House
6:00pm – 7:10pm	To Doctor's office	White House
7:30pm	(dinner - Study) Harry L. Hopkins, Robert E. Sherwood, Judge and Mrs. Samuel I. Rosenman, Grace G. Tully, Dorothy Brady <i>Note: Retired after midnight</i>	White House
ER	Returned from New York, NY in early evening, in Washington, D.C., to Station enroute to New York, NY (1:10)	



Notes: Sunday. LBJ USNR (but was also still a congressman), Higher-level naval officers in separate meeting, speechwriters (who missed Pearl Harbor Day -- 2 meals, working dinner?), Sherwood, Rosenman backgrounds (examples of FDR's ability to attract talented people), Dr office, never went to Oval Office, ER's day confusing (not at dinner w/FDR?), Houseguests omitted from slide. There was also a January 1942 day when *Lt Comdr* Johnson appeared – actor Melvyn Douglas was a WH dinner guest that day. Douglas's wife, Helen Gahagan Douglas (actress, Dem activist, ER protegee, and later congresswoman from CA) was not listed as attending that dinner. That earlier day was cut for brevity.

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FDR Medical Issues – and the Doctor's Office

Doctor's Office – On Ground Floor of White House (“Main Building”)

**Not a “code phrase” for “cocktail hour” or “FDR midday swim break”
(as I had originally suspected)**

FDR: Selected Days in the Life of President Franklin Roosevelt

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FDR Medical Issues – and the Doctor’s Office

FDR Route from WH Residence to Oval Office:

WH Residence (Second Floor of “Main Building”)

Elevator down to Ground Floor (original WH “basement”)

West on Ground Floor Corridor (go past Map Room and Doctor's Office)

West through Colonnade Passage to West Wing (go past indoor swimming pool)

Enter West Wing

Oval Office (in southeast corner of West Wing)

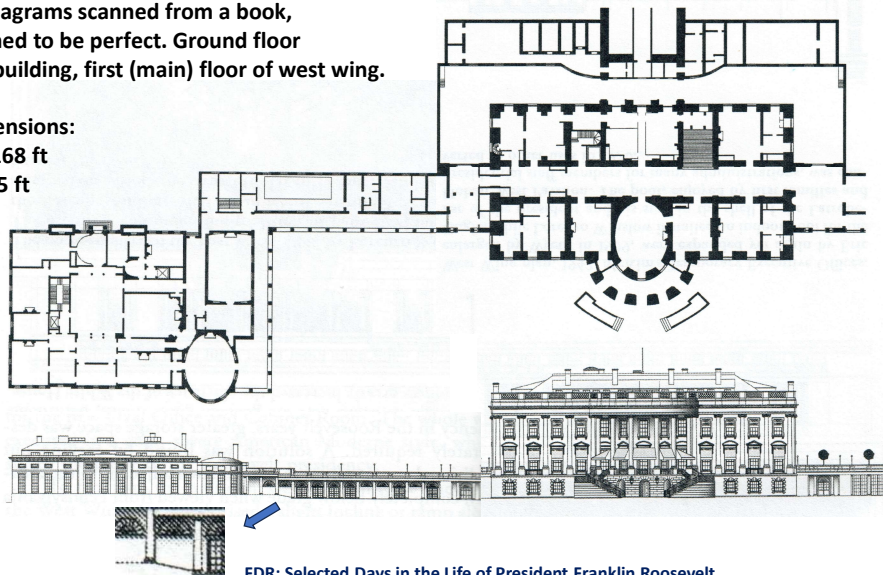
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White House Layout (~1942-48) – Sheet 1 of 1

Note: Stitched together by an amateur from 4 diagrams scanned from a book, not claimed to be perfect. Ground floor of main building, first (main) floor of west wing.

WH Dimensions:
Length: 168 ft
Width: 85 ft



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Notes on FDR Medical Conditions

- **“Known” Medical History**
 - Sinus and Lung Issues (propensity for common colds) {Important}
 - Paralysis
 - Late in life: Atherosclerosis
 - Death by cranial aneurysm
- **After Death**
 - No autopsy performed
 - Medical records (presumably kept at Bethesda Naval Hospital) “vanished”
 - Some limited medical information *is* available
 - Conspiracy theories (some decades after death)

White House Medical Staff

- **Ross Thomas McIntire (1889 – 1959)**
 - Otorhinolaryngologist
 - Vice Admiral, USN (after 1944)
 - (Chief) Physician to the President (1933-1946)
 - Surgeon General, US Navy (1938-1946)
- **Howard Gerald Bruenn (1905-1995)**
 - Cardiologist
 - Lieutenant Commander, USN
 - Physician to the President (1944-1945)
- **George A. Fox**
 - Lieutenant Commander, USN??
 - Physio-therapist (Pharmacist?)
 - White House Staff – provided FDR leg massages in Doctor’s Office

Note: No specialist in polio or paralysis – *but* he did have access to the staff at the Warm Springs facility in Georgia

The Map Room

White House Ground Floor (Basement) Location

Map Room -- function established (early-1942) by Captain John L. McCrea, USN

FDR WH Naval Aide, later Rear Admiral (1944), Vice Admiral (1946), law degrees

Adjacent to "Doctor's Office"

Importance of Map Room (to this "FDR Medical Story")

Sidelights on Map Room

Possibly once "Ladies Cloak Room"

Inspired (in part) by Winston Churchill maps (Dec 1941-Jan 1942 WH visit)

Creation (1942) assisted by Lt Henry R Montgomery, USNR (Naval Intelligence)

Ocean Wall Maps

Eventually Became Primary WW2 Military Information Collection Point

Function Evolved in Current WH Situation Room (in WW Basement)

McCrea left WH in early 1943 to become Captain of *USS Iowa (BB-61)*, transported FDR to foreign conferences, 1943)

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FDR in White House Doctor's Office

- "Doctor's Office" stops (typically on way *from* office to residence)
 - "Dentist-type" Chair
- Leg Massages (George Fox)
 - "Polio" vs Guillain-Barre (gee-YAH-buh-RAY) syndrome
 - Motor-nerve* paralysis of legs and (perhaps *slightly-less*) hips
 - With polio, often no skin numbness
 - Leg massage "almost daily" (when in D. C.) – following day at his desk
- Sinus Issues (Sinuses)
 - Dr (Admiral) McIntire – Appointments many afternoons plus WH "drop-ins"
 - "Observation": "almost daily"; "Treatments": probably every few days
- In 1942: Occasional military briefing from Admiral McCrea while *in* Doctor's Office

Note: "Almost daily" seems to conflict with 1142 Dr office visits.

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FDR's Health – Curious Scattered Information

White House Physician(s) – Saw FDR almost every day*

FDR Protected privacy* about his health (paralysis “underplayed”)

Usually visited Warm Springs twice per year (often ~3 weeks in Nov, pre-WW2)

Apparent declining health for last year of his life

Cardiologist traveled with him to Warm Springs (April 1945)

Specialist summoned *from Atlanta* – after FDR collapse on April 12

No attempt to reach closer medical assistance

No autopsy performed*

Few medical records “revealed” after death (primary medical file “vanished”)*

“F. Davis Rolph”

Some published “recollections”

Dr's 1946 memoir (people, travels, FDR: “normal for a man his age”*)

Medical journal article by cardiologist (1970)

Naval Aide McCrea (1942) “map room” “memoirs” -- “packing” (as sinus treatment)

Later “conspiracy theories”

Note: Paralysis “underplayed,” CCF opinion -- *-items: consistent with patient obsessed with medical privacy and had Dr who respected that. This slide in handout. FDR: Selected Days in the Life of President Franklin Roosevelt 39

Treatment of Sinus Issues (Sheet 1 of 4)

Disclaimers:

I am not a doctor (medical or otherwise).

I found *no information* from *knowledgeable medical practitioners* on *specific medical techniques* used to treat FDR's sinus issues. The *only* description I found was from his Naval Aide, McCrea, who mentioned he (McCrea) had observed FDR's physician “packing” FDR's sinuses (~1942).

Treatment of Sinus Issues (Sheet 2 of 4)

Current-day Treatments (Not available in 1930s and 1940s)

Current-day (~2025) sinus treatments include: Antihistamines and antibiotics (the latter to fight against sinus infections)

The first antihistamine, benadryl, was synthesized in 1942, but not approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) for general use until 1946.

The first widely used antibiotic, penicillin, came into use in the 1942-43 era (but, during WW2, supplies were limited; in the US, were available *only* to the armed forces).

It is *possible* that FDR (died April 1945) *might* have been treated with one or both of these products (especially penicillin, since he was the commander-in-chief of the US armed forces). However, *if* either, or both, were administered to him, it could have *only* been during the *final years* of his presidency

Treatment of Sinus Issues (Sheet 3 of 4)

Selected Common Treatments Available in the 1930-1945-era

Common (and accepted) Techniques *included* (among others):

Typically administer solutions of cocaine (typically 4%) and of ephedrine (typically 2%) to shrink nasal membranes and open sinus passages

Use medicated gauze to “pack” the nose

Hot-wire (via electric current) cauterization of sinus surfaces (deliberately create scar tissue). Cocaine was sometimes used as a local anesthetic prior to procedures of this type.

CCF Personal Note: The knowledge that he was troubled by sinus issues, together with the use of the word “cocaine” in the above descriptions, caused me to think of *possible* alternative motivations for FDR’s frequent visits to the WH Doctor’s Office.

Treatment of Sinus Issues (Sheet 3 of 4)

BUT (repeat disclaimer):

I found *no information* from *knowledgeable medical practitioners* on *specific medical techniques* used to treat FDR's sinus issues. The *only* description I found was from his Naval Aide, McCrea, who mentioned he (McCrea) had observed FDR's physician "packing" FDR's sinuses (~1942).

Lucy Mercer Rutherford



Aiken homes (AI?): Ridgeley Hall (332? Berrie Road SW, near Rye Patch) and Tip Top Too (516 Marion St. SE, near Track Kitchen restaurant). Note spelling of married surname: Rutherford.

Lucy Mercer Rutherford Timeline

- **April 26, 1891:** Born Washington, D.C.
- **1893:** Formerly-wealthy, socially-connected family loses fortune in financial panic.
- **~1912:** Worked in dress shop.
- **1914:** Hired as the social secretary for Eleanor Roosevelt (ER).
- **June 1917:** Leaves employment with ER, enlists in US Navy, assigned to FDR's office
- **Mid-1918:** ER said to have discovered a Mercer-FDR relationship
- **~1919:** Hired as governess for children of widower Winthrop Rutherford (1862-1944)
- **February 12, 1920:** Married Rutherford
 - 1 daughter, 5 stepsons, one stepdaughter
 - Homes: Allamuchy (Township), NJ; Aiken, SC; Manhattan, NY (apartment)
- **1941:** Winthrop Rutherford disabled by severe stroke
- **March 19, 1944:** Winthrop Rutherford dies.
- **April 1945:** Present at Warm Springs, Georgia, when FDR suffered a fatal stroke
- **July 31, 1948:** Dies, Aiken SC

Note: Washington DC social connections, probable need to work due to reduced family finances, Rutherford wealth (NJ home, Peter Stuyvesant direct descendant), oldest "stepson," Teddy Roosevelt son-in-law death in 1931. Married surname is Rutherford. This slide in handout.

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March 4, 1942 – Mrs. Paul Johnson -- Sheet 1 of 1

3:00pm	(Vincent Astor)	Office
6:45pm	Returned from Office via Doctor's office	White House
7:30pm	(dinner) Capt. and Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt, Maj. Harry Hooker	White House
9:30pm – 12:10am	Mrs. Paul Johnson <i>Note: Retired after midnight</i>	White House
ER	In Seattle, WA	
Houseguest	Capt. and Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt (arr. 6:30 am), Mrs. Forbes Morgan and baby (left 4:40 pm), Harry L. Hopkins returned (9:30 am)	

Notes: Wednesday. Items earlier on this day are omitted. Biographer/historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, and others, believe "Mrs Paul Johnson" was a code name for Lucy Mercer Rutherford. Goodwin speculated this visit *might* have been related to military service for her sons. Mrs Rutherford's husband was is alive at this time, but disabled from a stroke. Note: Drs Office and that ER is out of town.

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June 17, 1942 – Mrs. Paul Johnson -- Sheet 1 of 1

2:00pm	War Sec. Henry L. Stimson, Navy Sec. Frank Knox, Gen. George C. Marshall, Adm. Ernest J. King, Gen. Henry H. Arnold	Office
6:15pm	Returned from Office via Doctor's office	Office
7:15pm – 7:47pm	Mrs. Paul Johnson	White House
7:50pm	(dinner) - Alone	White House
9:40pm	To Station enroute to Hyde Park, NY accompanied by Grace G. Tully and Harry L. Hopkins <i>Note: Usher's Diary shows only Grace G. Tully going with FDR but the trip log shows mail etc for Harry L. Hopkins and John Martin.</i>	White House
ER	In Washington, DC , traveled to New York, NY in the afternoon	
Houseguest	Miss Lorena Hickok (arr. 8:45), Maj. and Mrs. James Roosevelt (left 8:45), Harry L. Hopkins (left 5:25)	

Notes: Wednesday. Items earlier on this day are omitted, Dr Office, "Mrs Paul Johnson" – brief visit before dinner, ER had left DC earlier that day, FDR left for Hyde Park after dinner. Miss Lorena Hickock WH semi-resident.

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October 19, 1942 – Mrs. Paul Johnson -- Sheet 1 of 1

2:00pm	(Assoc. Justice James F. Byrnes)	Office
4:00pm	Motoring from Office	Office
5:30pm	Returned from motoring to White House	White House
5:30pm – 6:10pm	(tea) Mrs. Paul Johnson	White House
6:10pm – 6:55pm	To Doctor's office accompanied by Mrs. Paul Johnson	White House
7:30pm – 10:40pm	(dinner) Mrs. Paul Johnson	White House
11:25pm	Retired	White House
ER	In New York, NY	
Houseguest	Prince Bernhard (arr. 10:50 pm)	

Notes: Monday. Items earlier in day omitted; "phone call" with Brynes (now a supreme court justice?); "Mrs Paul Johnson" for tea (she might have been picked up while he was motoring – perhaps his only chance for significant independent mobility), accompanies FDR to Dr Office, and stays for (leisurely?) dinner, left just prior to arrival of Prince Bernhard (Netherlands), ER is out of town. The Netherlands royal couple were also in exile due to Nazi occupation; had visited WH some time earlier.

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March 12, 1945 – Mrs Rutherford -- Sheet 1 of 1

5:50pm	Motoring	White House
6:40pm	Returned, accompanied by Mrs. Rutherford	White House
7:30pm – 10:30pm	(dinner - Study) Col. and Mrs. John Boettiger, Mrs. Rutherford	White House
10:35pm – 10:40pm	H. Setaro	White House
11:45pm	Retired	White House
ER	In Raleigh, NC	

Notes: Monday. Items from earlier in day omitted, FDR seems to have picked up Mrs Rutherford while motoring, Mrs John Boettiger is FDR's daughter, Anna Roosevelt Boettiger, ER out of town, Harry Setaro *might* have been an ex-boxer friend of FDR's distant cousin, Margaret (Daisy) Suckley (one of the people present at FDR's death a month later). Setaro may have been some type of "faith healer." Mrs Rutherford's husband had been deceased about a year at this time.

March 14, 1945 – Mrs Rutherford -- Sheet 1 of 1

1:05pm	Returned from Office	White House
1:05pm – 2:55pm	(lunch - Sun Parlor) Mrs. John Boettiger, Mrs. Rutherford	White House
4:10pm	To Office	White House
7:05pm	Returned from Office via Doctor's office	White House
7:30pm – 10:50pm	(dinner) Mrs. Rutherford	White House
11:15pm	Retired	White House
ER	In Montreat, NC	

Notes: Wednesday. Items earlier in the day omitted, Anna Roosevelt and Mrs Rutherford for lunch, Mrs Rutherford (only) for dinner, Dr Office, ER out of town.

March 20, 1945 – Mrs Rutherford -- Sheet 1 of 3

<i>Times</i>	<i>Log</i>	<i>Location</i>
11:00am – 11:20am	James F. Byrnes	White House
11:15am	(Sec. of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.) <i>Note: Conflict with usher's log</i>	Office
11:25am	To Office	White House
11:45am	Gen. George C. Kenney	Office
12:15pm	Joseph M. Proskauer, Jacob Blaustein	Office
1:10pm	Returned from Office	White House
1:10pm – 2:40pm	(lunch - Sun Parlor) Col. and Mrs. John Boettiger, Treasury Sec. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.	White House

Notes: Tuesday. James Byrnes of SC and Aiken (once again), Sec of State (mentioned with respect to vacant VP under Truman – parents may indicate phone call), Kenney was commander of USAAF in SE Asia, Lunch with daughter Anna and her husband. Presence of Anna on so many days might indicate concern about FDR's failing health around this time.

March 20, 1945 – Mrs Rutherford -- Sheet 2 of 3

1:10pm – 2:40pm	(lunch - Sun Parlor) Col. and Mrs. John Boettiger, Treasury Sec. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.	White House
2:45pm	To Office	White House
3:07pm	Press Conf. PC #997 Press and Radio Conference	Office
3:40pm – 6:30pm	Motoring to Naval Hospital to visit Cordell Hull, thence to Mrs. Rutherford	Office
6:30pm – 7:00pm	Returned to Doctor's office	White House
7:30pm – 11:00pm	(dinner) Col. and Mrs. John Boettiger, Mrs. Rutherford	White House

Notes: Mrs Rutherford (3:40-6:30 pm and 7:30-11:00pm entries), Dr Office, press conference (3:07pm)

March 20, 1945 – Mrs Rutherford -- Sheet 3 of 3

7:30pm – 11:00pm	(dinner) Col. and Mrs. John Boettiger, Mrs. Rutherford	White House
8:40pm – 9:10pm	To East Entrance for stills and movies of Red Cross Broadcast; thence to Oval Room for broadcast	White House
9:00pm	Radio address opening the Red Cross fund drive in Oval Room Subject: Red Cross	White House
11:45pm	Retired	White House
ER	In Greensboro, NC <i>Note: Usher's log had NYC crossed out, then Greensboro. Not clear if ER had actually been in NYC the previous day.</i>	

Note: Looks like FDR took time out from dinner with Boettigers and Mrs Rutherford for radio address, Oval Room is in WH residence – different from Oval Office. ER out of town. *If Rutherford = Rutherford*, they might have been making plans for April meeting at Warm Springs GA. None of these people knew FDR had only ~3 weeks left to live, but all might have suspected it.

March 29, 1945 – Depart for Warm Springs GA -- 1 of 1

12:30pm	Sen. Alben W. Barkley, Sen. Elbert D. Thomas (UT), James F. Byrnes	Office
12:55pm	Presentation of Commission to Jonathan Daniels	Office
1:55pm	Returned from Office	White House
1:55pm – 2:55pm	(lunch - Sun Parlor) Mrs. John Boettiger, Curtis Boettiger, Miss Laura Delano, Margaret Suckley	White House
4:00pm	To train enroute to Warm Springs, GA, with Margaret Suckley, Miss Laura Delano, Amb. Leighton McCarthy, Basil O'Connor <i>Note: Last entry in Tully log</i>	White House
ER	In Washington, DC	
Houseguest	Miss Margaret Suckley and Miss Laura Delano (arr. 0850, dep. 1600 to go with FDR to Warm Springs, GA); Curtis Boettiger (arr. 9:15)	

Note: Thursday. Earlier items in this day omitted, Laura Delano is another cousin, J. Daniels is appointed FDR's final press secretary, last entry by Tully, Curtis Boettiger is grandson (about age 7). Anna remained in DC.

April 5, 1945 – At Warm Springs -- Sheet 1 of 1

April 5th, 1945 print this page | share   

[previous day](#) [next day](#)

Transcript

<i>Times</i>	<i>Log</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Source</i>
2:00pm	Press Conf. PC#998 at Little White House. Philippine President Sergio Osmena present	Warm Springs, GA.	PC
ER	In New York, NY		USH
Houseguest	Mrs. Charles S. Fayerweather and Miss Margaret Fayerweather (dep. 11:05)		USH

Note: Thursday. This press conference seems to be the last act listed on his presidential appointment calendar. There seems to be a houseguest in the WH, even though both FDR and ER are out of town?

April 12, 1945 – At Warm Springs -- Sheet 1 of 2

April 12th, 1945 print

[previous day](#) [next day](#)

Transcript

<i>Times</i>	<i>Log</i>	<i>Location</i>
4:35pm	FDR died	Warm Springs, GA.
ER	In Washington, DC, then left for Warm Springs, GA, at 1915, where FDR had died that afternoon.	

Note: Thursday. RIP. FDR is said to have died while sitting for a portrait by painter Elizabeth Shoumatoff, which had been commissioned by Lucy Mercer Rutherford.

April 12, 1945 – At Warm Springs -- Sheet 2 of 2



Elizabeth Shoumatoff
(1888-198)



FDR – 1945 watercolor



FDR "1945" (oil, as remembered)



LBJ – 1968

April 20, 1945 – ER Leaves WH -- Sheet 1 of 1

April 20th, 1945

Previous day

Transcript

Times	Log
ER	In Washington, DC, then left for New York, NY with Miss Malvina Thompson, Gen. and Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt, Col. and Mrs. James Roosevelt, and Mrs. John Roosevelt. <i>Note: This was the last entry for ER in the usher's log</i>

Note: Friday.

FDR: Selected Days in the Life of President Franklin Roosevelt

End of Slide Presentation.

Thank You for Attending.

Questions, Comments?

FDR: Selected Days in the Life of President Franklin Roosevelt

If you would like to know more (books):

- Goodwin, Doris Kearns; *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: the Home Front in World War II*; 1994, Simon & Schuster.
- McCrea, John L (Vice Admiral, USN) and (Editor) Julia Tobey; *Captain McCrea's War*; 2016; Skyhorse Publishing.
- McIntire, Ross T (Vice Admiral, USN) and George Creel; *White House Physician*; 1946; G. P. Putnam's Sons.
- Phillips-Schrock, Patrick; *The White House: An Illustrated Architectural History*, 2013, McFarland & Company, Publishers.

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If you would like to know more (Web Sites):

- "Timeline: FDR Day-by-Day;" Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum; US National Archives and Records Administration; <https://www.fdrlibrary.org/timeline>
- Wikipedia contributors, "Franklin D. Roosevelt," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Franklin D. Roosevelt&oldid=1344721061](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Franklin_D._Roosevelt&oldid=1344721061) (accessed March 23, 2026).
- Wikipedia contributors, "Lucy Mercer Rutherford," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lucy Mercer Rutherford&oldid=1325778212](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lucy_Mercer_Rutherford&oldid=1325778212) (accessed March 23, 2026).
- Wikipedia contributors, "James F. Byrnes," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=James F. Byrnes&oldid=1343734590](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=James_F._Byrnes&oldid=1343734590) (accessed March 23, 2026).