



Ira Beckerman • You
Historic Preservation and archaeol...
1w •

...

This was the White House. If the President can have his way with this building, then no historic building or site is safe. Every place is at risk. I do believe history will judge this President poorly and without redemption. As well, his enablers in Congress and the Courts.



1792-2025
R.I.P.

78

26 comments • 2 reposts



Ira Beckerman Author
Historic Preservation and archaeol...

1w ...

A bit late but maybe section 307104 of the NHPA should be amended.

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Allyson Brooks Ph.D. ... • ...
State Historic Preservation Officer...

1w ...

You know very well that no historic building or site is safe. It is all consultation.

Like · 11 | Reply

**Ira Beckerman** Author

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Part A. Several folks have pointed out that the National Historic Preservation Act is Advisory and does not automatically protect anything. And that the White House and a few other properties are explicitly excluded from the law. For most of the public, tearing down part of the White House is a shocker because they assume it is protected by law. For us insiders, tearing down part of the White House is also a shocker even though we are aware of its legal standing. Properties are protected because the law says stop and consult, and through this public process respect for place and history bubbles to the surface. For most Americans, there is a consensus that some places are to be preserved, period. Disagreement appears at the edges, especially in recent history, places that commemorate minorities, etc. (to be continued)

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Part B. Thus EO 14253. And you would have thought the extreme white nationalism expressed therein would have afforded protection to the "White" House. But no. The brazen actions taken on the East Wing are the clearest signal that the President can and will alter the face of American History to suit his whim. Most of us probably knew in our hearts that he was capable of this, a man that has little understanding or respect for history, and has a record of disregard for historic places. It is heartbreaking to see it in action.

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Susan Roth • 2nd
Senior Planner at Laberge

1w ...

Ira Beckerman not true. The federal government is required to go through the process of determining the impact on the resource prior to spending federal dollars on it. Local owners are welcome to make all sorts of modifications to their buildings provided there's no public money involved.

Like | Reply



David R. Cubby, Esq. • 2nd
Small business, real estate and de...

1w ...

The East and West wings didn't exist in 1792. You disqualify yourself as a historic preservationist, hope you bought yourself something with that.

Like | Reply · 2 replies



Ira Beckerman Author
Historic Preservation and ar...

1w ...

Thank you for your comment. In thinking about whether or how to respond, it spurred me to reflect on the depth of my despair over this incident. It may be that the R.I.P. is not reflected in the wiping away of lumber, bricks, and mortar but in the life and death of the idea that this place was the People's House, and all that idea conveyed.

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Luke Baus · 3rd+

Principal at Project Architecture Lt...

6d ...

Please keep political posts off of LinkedIn. This banter deeply saddens me. The Whitehouse has and will continue to have renovations done over the generations. This serves all future President's and their foreign counterparts for functions well into the future. We need to stop complaining because of our political bias and start coming together as a country. Otherwise what we complain about will continue to tear us apart.

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Ira Beckerman Author

Historic Preservation and ar...

6d ...

I tend to agree on keeping politics off LinkedIn. And it's a pretty poor place to carry on civil discussion. I am trying to stay in my lane regarding archaeology and historic preservation, and I am especially a process guy. With regard to demolition of the East Wing, there was no process. Not ready, aim, fire; not even ready, fire, aim. Just fire. This is not really about politics, or even bricks, mortar, and plaster. It's about how decisions are made regarding the White House and whether it will remain as the People's House. If you think that is political, so be it. If you want to continue to discuss "offline," you can reach me through my blog.

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