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A visit to the West Wing of the White House

KEMPTON — Dunham House Owner, Shawn Christopher Clements made his sixth trip to the White House recently. However, this time was the most special one of all, the West Wing.

Previous visits included the East Wing of the White House which contains the East Room which was a portrait of George Washington. The portrait survived after being saved by Dolley Madison from the British burning the White House during the War of 1812.

Also in the East Wing is where the State Dining Room is located and a historic portrait of Lincoln hangs while foreign dignitaries dine. The East Wing is also where President Lincoln and President Kennedy lain in state after being assassinated. Many of the original furnishings are still on display thanks to Jacqueline Kennedy's extensive efforts in the 1960's to help restore the house to standard that all Americans can be proud of.

Another trip to the White House was to tour the gar-

dens in the fall. Many trees have been planted by Presidents and First Ladies. The oldest is from John Adams in the early 1800's and the most current planted by President Obama in 2009. The tour included seeing First Lady, Michelle Obama's vegetable garden and bee hive that has provided the White House with honey for many recipes for dinners served to many diplomats. The gardens rest on the South Lawn of the White House. This is also where the President's helicopter, known as Marine 1 lands as well as the historic Easter Egg Roll happens every year.

Also, on the South Lawn, the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden was started during the Kennedy Administration and completed during the Johnson Administration as Lady Bird Johnson dedicated it to Mrs. Kennedy. The tour also included seeing the White House Rose Garden where many Presidents have made many major announcements and walked through to ponder difficult

decisions. The Rose Garden sets just outside the Oval Office where the President can look out over the beautiful landscaping.

However, the tour that Clements has thought about for many years is the West Wing. "To me the West Wing is where more decisions have been made that effect American history than any place I can think of."

In 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt located his office to the West Wing and every President has had his office there ever since.

In the West Wing there are many historic rooms. The Cabinet Room is where the Cabinet Secretaries meet with the President. The Roosevelt Room is a meeting room where President Theodore Roosevelt's Noble Peace Prize hangs; he was not only the first U.S. President to receive the award but the first American. Other areas of the West Wing are the West Wing Lobby, the Rose Garden Colonnade, the James S. Brady Press Room and the



Shawn Clements stands behind the podium in the White House Press Room.

Navy Mess that has served President's since 1880.

The two remaining room of the West Wing are the Situation Room and the Oval Office. The Situation Room is 5,000 square feet and is run 24 hours a day, seven days a week and monitors national

and world intelligence information. This room connects the President with generals and world leaders around the globe. The situation room has gained more notoriety as this is where the mission

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Visit

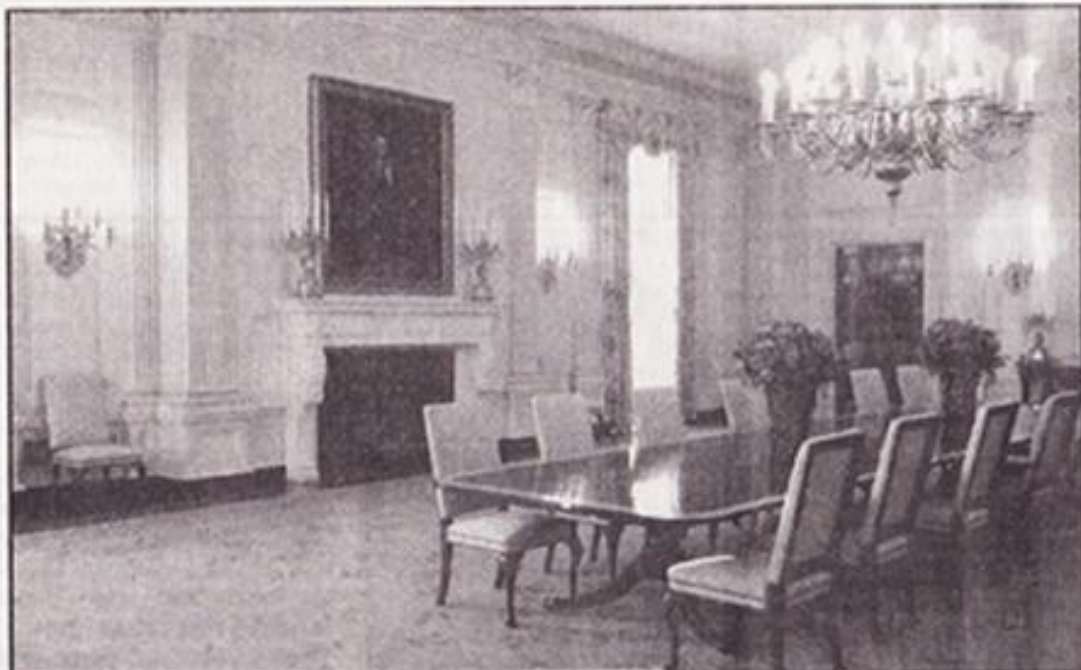
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against Osama bin Lade was carried out. The late room in the West Wing is perhaps the most sacred of all the Oval Office.

"To see the Oval Office is so amazingly humbling Clements said. "When you stand there and see the desk that so many Presidents have sat at, you realize how special this place is." The desk is made of timber from the H.M.S. Resolute and given by Queen Victoria to President Hayes in 1880. The Oval Office rug contains historic quotes from President Lincoln, Martin

Luther King, Jr., both President Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt and President Kennedy. On the ceiling is the Presidential Seal and the U.S. Flag and the President's flag are present behind the desk. "You can feel the history all around you as you think about all historic figures that have been there before you, it's a lot to take in. I have been so incredibly fortunate to see many different sides of the White House and meet many fantastic people. Since this journey began, I have attended two Presidential Inaugurations, three Presidential staff and Commander-in-Chief formal balls, had the opportunity to

see and meet celebrities, and witness many events of the President of the United States. However, the Oval Office tour is the single greatest experience I have had during this time and for that I am so very grateful." To see the historic journey and photos go to www.thedunham-house.com.



Pictured are The Jaqueline Kennedy Garden, some of the White House chefs and the State Dining Room.

