



THE JEFFERSON  
WASHINGTON DC

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**The Jefferson: Eight Decades of Quiet “Revolutions”**  
*Making and Re-Making Washington’s Best Small Luxury Hotel*

Thomas Jefferson once said, “Every generation needs a new revolution.” It’s a statement that has been taken to heart by his namesake Washington hotel, The Jefferson, whose transformative changes over 85 years have kept it at the forefront of the Washington political and social scene.

In 1923, the nation had a new president in Calvin Coolidge, and Washington, D.C. welcomed a new luxury residential building: The Jefferson Apartment, an eight-story Beaux Arts gem at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> and M Streets Northwest. Designed by Paris-trained architect Jules Henri de Sibour, whose aristocratic French pedigree earned him preferential status among wealthy Washingtonians, the apartment house was considered the address of choice for members of Washington’s highest government and social circles.

General A.R. Glancy purchased The Jefferson Apartment in 1931. Later, during World War II, the building housed military personnel and served as a British military headquarters.

It was in 1955 that the apartment house was converted into a hotel, and The Jefferson was born. The Jefferson quickly established a reputation as Washington’s most discerning hotel. Discreet, exceptional service and a strategic location just four blocks north of the White House attracted a steady stream of distinguished guests, among them celebrities, diplomats, U.S. presidents, foreign heads of state, and savvy Washingtonians. Its significance on the national and international political scene earned The Jefferson the nickname “White House North.”

In the mid-1970s, Edward Bennett Williams purchased The Jefferson and invested \$7 million in renovations to create an intimate, European-style hotel fashioned after London’s Connaught. The prominent Washington attorney and former Baltimore Orioles owner also invested considerable personal time acquiring antiques for The

Jefferson's guest rooms and public spaces. It was Williams who obtained the collections of original Thomas Jefferson documents and antique books displayed throughout the hotel, as well as such charming touches as a white enamel gas stove installed in one of its individually decorated guest rooms.

Over time, The Jefferson grew beyond its original walls. The purchase of an adjoining townhouse in 1983 gave the hotel 12 new guest rooms, two party rooms for private functions and a restaurant. Later, a second adjacent townhouse, to house The Jefferson's offices, was added.

The Jefferson's guest list through the years reads like a Who's Who of the political, social, literary and theatrical worlds: Vivien Leigh, Katherine Anne Porter, Leonard Bernstein, Tom Stoppard, Helen Hayes and Charlton Heston among them. Some stayed for months, some years, and others requested a favorite room with each visit. H.L. Mencken's room was lined with his favorite books. Before landing at CNN, talk show host Larry King broadcast his popular radio show from a room at The Jefferson.

The hotel has hosted President and Mrs. Reagan, as well as the Bush family, who stayed at The Jefferson during George H.W. Bush's inaugural ceremonies. President Bush later selected his cabinet in The Jefferson's meeting rooms.

Permanent hotel residents are known as Jeffersonians, and their numbers have included high-ranking government officials who made The Jefferson their Washington home during their service. The 1980s alone saw the families of Walter H. Annenberg and William French Smith take up residence, while Casper Weinberger's family moved in with beloved collie Mr. Buffington. In the 1990s, new Jeffersonians included Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher and his wife as well as Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin.

In June 2005, The Jefferson was acquired by DC CAP Hotelier, LLC, and on March 1, 2007, the venerable hotel closed its doors to begin its most significant transformation to date. It will reemerge in mid-2009 as Washington's best small luxury hotel, following a top-to-bottom renovation that will introduce the mid-Atlantic's only spa suite, a new fine dining restaurant and lounge, reconfigured meeting space, an exclusive spa and 24-hour fitness room.

For more information, visit [www.jeffersondc.com](http://www.jeffersondc.com)

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