



Henderson Sofa

The Henderson sofa has been in the Home since the 1830s. This is the sofa that Archibald Henderson laid on to take a nap before dinner and passed away.

General Henderson's obituary reads *"... he seated himself on a sofa in a reclining posture, with head resting on arm of the sofa.*

The servant, on ringing the dinner bell, observed that he did not notice it, and went to rouse him. He was discovered to be dead. Not a feature on his face was changed, and from the natural position of his limbs, it was apparent that death came without struggle, and the good man and brave soldier had passed to his final rest without suffering in any respect the bitterness of death."

Music Room

The music room is used as the main entertainment area for guests of the Commandant and his wife. The wood flooring was restored to its original color during the 1999 renovation. It was discovered in a small coat closet on the first floor.



Baby Grand Piano

The piano was a gift from General Cates, the 19th Commandant. It is often used by members of "The President's Own" to entertain dinner guests.



Fireplace Shield

Face shields were used to protect the face from fireplace heat by people who had survived smallpox and were using beeswax based makeup to fill in the scars. Fireplace shields helped to keep the makeup from melting.

Sun Porch

About 1907, Brigadier General Elliot directed the removal of the narrow opening porch on the south side of the house and the building of a sun porch in its place. The brick used, by modern standards, was somewhat crude in shape and quality. They were made of clay that was dug from a pit located midway between the Barracks and the Navy Yard and were light salmon in color. The molds used could make six bricks at a time. The curved wall is part of the original outer wall and retains some of the original hand blown glass windows. Mrs. Vandegrift designed the wrought iron lampposts and handrails on the outer stairwell.





A formal dining room featuring a large, polished wooden dining table surrounded by matching wooden chairs with blue upholstered seats and yellow floral patterns. In the background, a dark wood sideboard holds several silver and glass vessels. A window with blue curtains and a framed portrait of a man in a military uniform are also visible.

Formal Dining Room

The original size of this room was about half its current size and had only one window vice the current two. In 1840, it was expanded to its current size. The addition included the butler's pantry, back hall, and back service stairs to the second floor.

Carpet

Various carpets throughout the home are hand made and have been specifically designed to compliment each room's colors. This hand made carpet incorporates the original 13-star seal and items from historical Marine Corps officer's uniforms.



Portrait Archibald Henderson

The portrait of BGen Archibald Henderson is reflected in the mirror. The Home has a benevolent ghost – many think it is General Henderson who lived there for 39 years.

Mahogany Dining Table

The dining table is a solid mahogany piece and can comfortably seat 20, but up to 24. It is occasionally removed and the room is arranged with three tables that seat 8 to 10 people, depending upon the occasion and number of attendees.

Wedding Portrait

Colonel Waterhouse painted the Archibald "Wedding Portrait" in 1983. The portrait portrays Lieutenant Colonel Henderson and his wife hosting a gathering at Marine Barracks Washington while being serenaded by the Marine Band. On the portrait, you can see the difference between the current appearance of the Home and what it looked like during the 1820s. The sun porch had not yet been added onto the house and it still retains the original salmon color.

London Mahogany Tea Table

The tea table is a wheeled folding table with porcelain and English cut glass. The entire interior rises up to form a table when the leaves are opened. Mrs. Cushman, wife of the 25th Commandant, selected the table for the Home.

